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## Angry, Clinton Denies New Scandal Charge

### Sexual Affair and Perjury Reported

By Brian Knowlton  
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton adamantly denied explosive new allegations on Wednesday that he had had a sexual relationship with a young White House aide and then asked her to lie about it under oath.

"That is not true," Mr. Clinton said in a PBS television interview. "That is not true. I did not ask anyone to tell anything other than the truth. There is no improper relationship."

His comments came after reports that Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel examining the Whitewater affair, was now investigating whether the president and a close friend, the lobbyist Vernon Jordan Jr., had encouraged the former intern to lie to lawyers for Paula Jones, who is suing Mr. Clinton on sexual harassment charges.

Although important details remained unclear and no allegations have been proved, the case appeared to have even greater potential than the Jones suit to seriously distract the administration, plunging the presidency into murky legal troubles with heavy political costs.

Representative Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said that if charges of perjury or subornation of witnesses were proved, an impeachment investigation would be "an option."

Reports said that the former aide, identified as Monica Lewinsky, 24, had herself denied any relationship with the president in an affidavit made to Paula Jones's lawyers.

But according to several sources, another former White House aide, Linda Tripp, surreptitiously made up to 17 tape recordings in which Ms. Lewinsky purportedly described in detail an 18-month affair with the president. According to CNN, Ms. Tripp carried a hidden microphone, at Mr. Starr's behest, to make at least one of those tapes.

"I smell a rat in all this, and we'll dig it out," Robert Bennett, Mr. Clinton's private attorney, said Wednesday on his way into the White House.

Of the allegations, he said, "The president adamantly denies it, and she under oath denies it."

With reporters clamoring for comment, the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, read this statement: "The president is outraged by these allegations. He has never had an improper relationship with this woman."

Asked later by reporters what an "improper relationship" was, or what relationship Mr. Clinton and the aide might have had, Mr. McCurry said repeatedly that the statement "speaks for itself."

He said the statement had been drafted by the White House.

See CLINTON, Page 6



Kenneth Starr has extended his investigation into President Clinton's alleged relationship with a former intern, Monica Lewinsky.

## Chief Inspector Rejects Call By Iraq to Halt UN Mission

### U.S. Repeats Threat of Force

By Barbara Crossette  
New York Times Service

BAGHDAD — President Saddam Hussein has raised his defiance of the United Nations and the Clinton administration to a new level by calling for a freeze on all inspections and even discussion of "sensitive" sites, Iraqi and UN officials said Wednesday.

The reaction from the chief UN arms inspector, Richard Butler, was swift and sharp. "I cannot and will not agree to that," he said at a news conference before leaving Iraq.

Apparently emboldened by an agreement Tuesday to review files on key weapons programs to determine if they can be closed, Iraq told Mr. Butler on Tuesday night that there should be no more talks until April about suspect sites that Iraq has put off limits, which include presidential palaces. By then, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Wednesday, Iraq should be close to having sanctions lifted, and the issue would be all but moot.

In other words, Iraq has now made its most unambiguous bid to go directly to the endgame, pushing aside concerns that installations belonging to Mr. Hussein and his security forces may harbor biological or other weapons.

The United States said Wednesday that the proposal by Iraq for a freeze on

inspections was unacceptable, Reuters reported from Washington. "It appears Iraq has ignored the message of the Security Council and instead tried to impose new and unacceptable conditions on the UN operations," said James Rubin, the State Department spokesman.

Mr. Rubin reiterated U.S. preparedness to use military means if necessary to force Iraq to comply with the in-

spections, but said diplomatic channels were still being pursued. "Ambassador Butler plans to brief the Security Council on Friday," he said. "It's premature to speculate on what actions might be taken until after he has had a chance to report fully on his visit. But again, we are not ruling out any options."

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Richard Butler, the arms inspector, at a briefing Wednesday in Baghdad.

## Rich Taiwan Sees Bargains All Around

By Keith Richburg  
Washington Post Service

TAIPEI — Southeast Asia's currencies have collapsed and stock prices have plummeted. Businesses are filing for bankruptcy, banks are going belly-up. And in the midst of the worldwide turmoil, Taiwan is going shopping.

In a major policy move with long-term implications for the region, Taiwan businesses are fanning out through the hardest-hit countries of Asia, hoping to take advantage of the current crisis by buying up assets at fire-sale prices. Luxury hotels and cash-strapped finance

companies are among the most tempting targets, with one deal reported to involve a bid for Bangkok Bank PCL and another said to involve two five-star hotels in Thailand and South Korea.

The motivation is not entirely economic. In its ongoing battle with Beijing for influence and political leverage, Taiwan is hoping to break out of its international isolation by greatly expanding its commercial ties in Southeast Asia, an investment strategy known here as the "Go South" policy.

One of the leaders of the "Go South" strategy is Taipei-based China Development Corp., the business arm of the

governing party, the Kuomintang. Taiwan's president and the Kuomintang leader, Lee Teng-bui, has pushed for Taiwanese businesses to look to Southeast Asia for new commercial opportunities, partly as a way to lessen the island's economic dependence on mainland China. China Development, as the largest investment group on Taiwan, is at the forefront of the strategy.

The corporation said Wednesday that it was considering buying parts of Samsung Group of South Korea. Bloomberg News reported from Taipei. So far, however, the corporation is only looking, executives said.

"We are interested in some Korean companies that have good growth prospects," said Grace Fang, a vice president at the corporation. It plans to invest about \$5 billion Taiwan dollars, or \$149 million, in Asia's battered economies, she said.

[This week, Chen Yu-how, chairman of the textile manufacturer Tuntex Group, said Taiwan businesses planned to spend as much as \$2 billion to form a holding company to invest in Southeast Asian companies, buying as much as 5 percent of selected companies.]

The "Go South" strategy formally began in 1994, after Mr. Lee made a series of private "golfing trips" through the region in what was then called "golf diplomacy." But China Development Corp. until this year kept the bulk of its

### Related Articles

• Malaysian rules may stifle the creativity of computer software developers, critics say. Page 10.

• The U.S. Treasury secretary has warned against complacency over Asia's turmoil. Page 11.

• A World Bank official discusses the impact of the business crisis on Indonesia. Q&A, Page 11.

• President-elect Kim Dae Jung pledges to make it easier to invest in South Korea. Page 15.

investments on Taiwan. "This is the worst financial crisis ever in Asia, and it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Benny Hu, president of the corporation, told a Taipei daily, China News.

"If I don't take advantage of it now," he was quoted as saying, "people might ask later 'why did you let this chance slip by?'"

Mr. Hu, in telefaxed answers to questions about the corporation's investment policy, elaborated on the strategy, saying, "Since Taiwanese businesses have expanded quite successfully in the region, we at CDC always believe it to be a good strategy to invest along with our industrial companies."

See TAIWAN, Page 6

## Clinton Presses Netanyahu To Accept Phased Pullout

### Israeli Insists on Pledge to Speed Final Talks

By Steven Erlanger  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The United States is proposing a phased Israeli withdrawal from West Bank land in return for specific Palestinian actions over several months that would culminate in accelerated talks on a final settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians, Israeli and American officials said Wednesday.

After hours of detailed talks over the last two days between President Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Americans and Israelis do not yet agree on the overall size of the Israeli withdrawal or the number of phases it would require, the officials said.

Mr. Netanyahu is insisting that Israel have the right to determine the size of any withdrawal, and he is reluctant to give up too much land before entering final settlement talks that will define the boundaries of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the officials say. He is insisting that an agreement on this interim with-

drawal include a firm commitment from the Palestinians to open accelerated final talks, which is also an American goal.

In return for the phased interim withdrawal, the Israelis are also insisting upon a formal rewriting of the Palestinian Covenant and passage of the new document by the Palesone National Council. They also want detailed security cooperation and unilateral Palestinian actions against specific groups and individuals, and in particular, Israeli officials said, "an end to the revolving door" of Palestinian prisoners, by which, the Israelis assert, radicals are released from detention to stir the political needs of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

The Israelis also insist on a reduction of armed Palestinian policemen to the numbers outlined in the earlier Oslo and Hebron accords. It is not, of course, a given that Mr. Arafat will agree to these demands as the price for a withdrawal Israel agreed to under the Oslo accords. But the Israelis say the size and nature of the withdrawal are up to them, and will be dependent on Palestinian reciprocity.

The officials expect a meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat — who arrived Wednesday in Washington for his own talks with Mr. Clinton — mediated by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in the next 10 days or two weeks, probably in Europe. In an interview Wednesday, and a later press conference here, Mr. Netanyahu said: "I think we made some progress. There is more work to be done. It will probably be done in the next two weeks."

U.S. officials also said that "we have a lot of work to do still," even after intensive discussions with Mr. Netanyahu that went into the night. "The gap that has existed for a year is not going to

See MIDEAST, Page 6

## While Indonesia Regroups

### Jakarta and Financiers Discuss a Restructuring

By Paul Blustein  
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — As the plunging currency forces more and more Indonesian companies virtually into default on their foreign debts, discussions have begun among the government, foreign banks and the International Monetary Fund to see if the country's debt burden can be restructured.

The talks, according to bankers and officials of the IMF and the government, are aimed at enabling Indonesia to follow South Korea in striking an agreement with its creditors so that the debt can be repaid over a longer term — and more realistic — schedule.

"We are working on it," said Widjojo Nitisastro, special economics adviser to President Suharto. Stanley Fischer, the IMF deputy managing director, said on CNN, "I suspect that in the next week or so details will be coming out."

If successful, the initiative would provide a lift to the Clinton administration's efforts to persuade Congress and the American public to support IMF-led bailouts for Indonesia and other financially strapped Asian countries. Were

banks to be seen as sharing in the cost of putting troubled economies back on a sound footing, the administration would be better positioned to fend off criticism that the rescue packages spare big international lenders from suffering the consequences of making risky loans.

But bankers warned that it would be even harder to reach an accord for Indonesia than it has been for South Korea, which is embroiled in complex negotiations with its creditors. That is because unlike Seoul, where most of the foreign debt is owed by a few dozen banks, the majority of Indonesia's \$140 billion-odd debt is owed by hundreds of corporations and their subsidiaries under a wide variety of terms.

The problem is nonetheless being urgently addressed because officials and bankers fear that unless some solution emerges, Indonesia will be unable to escape from its financial crisis and might be forced to declare a moratorium on debt repayment. That would deal a serious blow to its long-term ability to attract foreign capital and might damage investor confidence even further in Asia.

See RUPIAH, Page 6

## Historians Seek Key to the Holocaust

By Alan Cowell  
New York Times Service

BONN — For decades, it has been the ultimate enigma among historians of what the Nazis called the final solution: How can it be proved empirically that Hitler ordered the annihilation of Europe's Jews, and when did he do so? Despite a half-century of research, no single document has provided evidence that the Nazi leader gave a written order

for the Holocaust. Without that crucial piece of paper, generations of historians have veered from the rightist revisionism of David Irving, who sought to discount Hitler's role, to a belief, embraced by American scholars like Richard Breitman and Daniel Goldhagen, that Hitler made the decision in early 1941 — a thesis supported by the documented, systematic killing of Jews later that year after Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union.

Against that, the German historian Hans Mommsen has cast Hitler as a "weak dictator" and the Holocaust as the result of a horrendous bureaucratic process with its own momentum. German students have learned that the detailed planning for history's biggest genocide emerged from a conference of senior Nazis in a villa at Wannsee, near Berlin, on Jan. 20, 1942.

Now a 34-year-old German scholar, Christian Gerlach, has set off a debate among historians with a new and contentious theory, based on a notation by Heinrich Himmler, the SS chief, discovered in previously secret Soviet documents and on other documents. The documents supposedly establish that

Hitler did, indeed, make a personal decision to put to death German and all other European Jews under Nazi occupation, and announced it to his most senior Nazi followers on Dec. 12, 1941.

In addition, Mr. Gerlach argued in a recently published article that the decision was touched off in part by the U.S. entry into the war after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Besieged by requests from his underlings to define which categories of Jews should be put to death in occupied countries to the east, Mr. Gerlach wrote, Hitler decided it was time to redeem a prophecy made in early 1939 that a new world war would mean the annihilation of all Europe's Jews, not just those in the Soviet Union.

The Wannsee conference — chaired by Himmler's deputy, Reinhard Heydrich — was therefore called to make clear that German Jews, many of whom had already been deported to concentration camps in Eastern Europe, were also to be included in the "final solution," Mr. Gerlach argued.

If borne out, the theory would provide new proof of Hitler's direct responsibility for the Holocaust and, therefore,



Heinrich Himmler: A crucial note?

overturn many postwar attempts to minimize his role in it. It would also cast new doubt on Mr. Goldhagen's contested explanation of the Holocaust — put forward in his 1996 best seller "Hitler's Willing Executioners" — as being primarily rooted in what he termed an "eliminationist" and-Semiticism among ordinary Germans.

See NAZI, Page 6

## Flying the Fleur-de-Lis

### French Royalists Commemorate a Black Day

By Craig R. Whitney  
New York Times Service

PARIS — Prince Sixte-Henri de Bourbon-Parma, a distant relative of Louis XVI, stood about where the guillotine chopped the royal head off 205 years ago Wednesday and looked on the bright side.

"It's no more unthinkable to say that we could have a monarchy in France three years from now than it was to stand here in 1788 and say that France would become a republic," said the prince, wearing a silver fleur-de-lis pin and a black tie in mourning. "So everything is possible."

Restoration seemed a distant dream on Wednesday, though. Only a score of monarchists showed up as radiant sunshine poured down over the Place de la Concorde, called the Place Louis XV and then the Place de la Revolution before Louis and 1,342 other people were guillotined there in the Terror. Chastened revolutionaries in the Directory later gave the square its present

name in hopes of encouraging reconciliation.

Five years ago, on the 200th anniversary, hundreds of people remembered the king's death in ceremonies attended by the U.S. ambassador of the time, Walter Curley. He deposited a bouquet of flowers in gratitude for the support the American Revolution got from Louis XVI, saying, "Louis XVI, nous voici!"

As is customary, a couple of hundred people prayed for the soul of Louis XVI in Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois, the royal parish church when the Louvre across the street was a palace instead of a museum, at a Requiem Mass also attended by Prince Sixte-Henri.

His presence was a notable event in the facton-ridden politics of France's tiny royalist movement, when on the anniversary of the most terrible event in its history most members of the Bourbon branch usually repair for Mass to the Basilica of Saint-Denis, where

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Newstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD
Cyprus	€ 1.00
Denmark	14.00 Dkr
Finland	12.00 Fm
Gibraltar	€ 0.85
Great Britain	€ 0.90
Egypt	1.250 JD
Kenya	1.250 U.S. Mil.
Kuwait	700 Fm
Malta	55 c
Nigeria	2500 Naira
Oman	1,250 QR
Qatar	10.00 QR
Rep. Ireland	€ 1.00
Saudi Arabia	10 SR
S. Africa	€ 1.12
S. Korea	€ 1.00
U.A.E.	€ 1.20
Zimbabwe	2m340.00





## A Cultural Turnaround / Gauchos Sing the Blues

## 'Yankee' Is Cool in Latin America

By Anthony Faiola  
Washington Post Service

**B**UENOS AIRES — Muddy Waters stares down from the wall with Polaris eyes, grinning ear to ear as cool rhythms ooze through an overheated club that no-smoking laws forgot. There is enough black clothing for Big Joe Turner's funeral, enough berets for a picnic in Paris. And man, oh man, has the guy on stage got some serious girl troubles.

"Oh baby, oh baby," belts out the Argentine bluesman and club owner Jorge (Napó) Napoleone. "I ain't never found nobody so crazy as you."

The rancorous crowd apparently has never found nobody so crazy as his baby, either. "Keep it coming," one woman yells in Spanish through her impossibly burnt-down cigarette butt.

Make no mistake: The Argentines got the blues. So do the Brazilians, the Uruguayans, the Chileans and much of the rest of Latin America. Big-name American acts and homegrown artists can be found in almost any city in the region, sounding as mournful in their singing as their audiences are happy to hear them.

The popularity of the blues here underscores a cultural phenomenon sweeping South America, where everything stamped "U.S.A." is suddenly red hot — and blue. Chorus of "Yankee Go Home" have faded as the region's once ubiquitous dictatorships and radical left give way to a new age of free-market economics and eager connections with the United States. Those closer economic and political ties have now evolved into a cultural invasion from the north unlike any before, and it has locals here reveling in things American far beyond mainstream Madonna songs and Sylvester Stallone flicks.

It is, experts say, an example of how it's cool to be American again in the global society. It's not just about Parisians on rollerblades, Russians eating Whoppers or Himalayan Sherpas wearing Washington Redskins T-shirts. Today, it's about Terence McNally, Jean-Michel Basquiat and B.B. King.

"When I was growing up, French

was the second language of the intellectual community, but that has completely changed," said Tomas Eloy Martinez, one of Argentina's most celebrated authors. "English has replaced French — not just in economic circles but now in cultural circles. It has everything to do with America and the fact that it is being viewed as culturally important in a way we never thought before."

South Americans, from the lowest classes to the highest rungs of an

After fall of dictators,  
a lot of the distrust of  
America faded away.

intelligentsia that once considered European culture far more worthy of absorption, are flocking to take in more sophisticated American offerings. Among them: local productions of American plays, book signings by American authors, exhibits by experimental American artists.

Meanwhile, American symbols have become the ultimate marketing tools across the continent — often without true cognizance of their meaning in the United States. A popular brand of jeans in Argentina, for instance, uses the Confederate flag as its logo, although four people here who were asked randomly about it had no clue of its association with slavery.

"It's America," said a young man wearing a Confederate flag on his

backside. "It means liberty."

**E**VERYONE is clamoring for classes in "American English." And there is a growing tendency throughout the region to adopt English words into everyday speech, using "shopping" as a noun for a shopping mall or "top" when describing something as the ultimate.

"It's an amazing turnaround," said James Moore, the cultural attaché at the U.S. Embassy here, which helped bring such performers as Liza Minnelli and the American Ballet Theater to multiple sold-out appearances in Buenos Aires.

"After the fall of the dictators in

Latin America and the invasion of mass media, a lot of the distrust of America faded away," Mr. Moore said.

"They don't feel guilty about enjoying American culture anymore, and they are increasingly interested in the more sophisticated stuff — not just the Big Macs."

Nowhere is the switch from Yankee bashing to Yankee hugging more obvious than historically Eurocentric Argentina, where 90 percent of the population is of European descent and where Juan Peron rose to the nation's highest office on anti-American rhetoric.

These days, the only Damn Yankees in Argentina are the ones on stage. Buenos Aires is the capital of Latin American theater, yet almost 50 percent of the plays in production here are translated works by U.S. playwrights, most of them imported from Broadway and off-Broadway. The list of hits includes Mr. McNally's "Master Class," which had its premiere in Washington and went on to become one of the biggest grossing plays of all time in South America. Also a hit was "Angels in America," Tony Kushner's epic on AIDS.

Contrast that with 20 years ago, when, in the era of the dictatorships, such American works were looked down upon compared with homegrown or European imports, according to F&F Productions, the largest distributor of U.S. plays in Latin America.

"Plays from America are what the people want to see now," said Federico Gonzalez del Pino, co-owner of F&F, who contracts with the Elisabeth Martin Agency in New York to bring U.S. stage works to South America.

"They are very 'top' right now." On a recent Sunday at the Buenos Aires Museum of Fine Arts, college art students couldn't walk fast enough down halls lined with French Impressionists and old Spanish masters to ooh and ahhh at the crayon-on-paper works of Basquiat, a Manhattan-born appendage of Andy Warhol.

Marcos Corso, 18, took meticulous notes in front of a Basquiat drawing of a cow, or a horse, or a moose — something with four legs, anyway. When asked what he saw in an image



Jorge (Napó) Napoleone playing outside his blues club in Buenos Aires.

that looked like the work of a toddler who couldn't color within the lines, the student snickered and said, in mildly accented English, "It speaks to the rawness of American culture; it is the value it brings to us."

**P**ERHAPS the hottest slice of American culture outside the mainstream, however, remains the blues. There are at least six blues clubs in Buenos Aires and about as many in Rio de Janeiro — and their numbers are growing.

Here, the clubs range from upscale places for the wealthy at the "top" Puerto Madero complex on the down-and-dirty joints of La Boca, the old

Italian quarter known for giving birth to the tango.

Blues are so popular here, in fact, that many American blues musicians, along with their jazz and soul cousins, who are unable to find work in the United States are flocking here for top dollar.

"I couldn't get a record company in the States to talk to me," said Bruce Ewan, a Washington blues musician who also sells advertising for The Washington Post. "But when I came to Buenos Aires, they flew me in first class. I got hundreds of calls on a radio show and played sold-out concerts with lines around the block. I've cut a record in Brazil, and it's doing great."

Algiers Bomb  
Explodes at  
University

The Associated Press

**ALGIERS** — A bomb exploded Wednesday in front of one of the main university buildings in central Algiers, killing one person, state radio reported. Hospital officials said earlier, however, that two people had died.

The afternoon bombing took place on a street packed with students and others, and the toll was likely to rise, the hospital officials said. They spoke on the condition they not be named.

The door to the building burst into flames after the bomb went off, and people fled in panic. Security forces moved in quickly and sealed off the area.

The explosion came the day after at least 11 people were killed by two bombs — one on an Algiers bus, another at a market in Zerkala, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) west of the capital.

It also came a day after a European Union delegation ended a 24-hour visit with a call for the Algerian regime to be more open about the violence that is wracking the nation.

More than 1,000 people reportedly have been killed, mostly in brutal massacres, since the Muslim holy month of Ramadan began on Dec. 30.

The visit by the EU envoys was the first such effort by the West to end a civil war that has killed an estimated 75,000 people since 1992, when an Islamic insurgency began.

The EU delegation was led by Derek Fatchett, the British secretary of state for foreign affairs.

In its latest edition, the editors of El Ribet, a weekly newsletter published overseas by supporters of the banned Islamic Salvation Front, welcomed the EU mission.

But they also urged the EU not to limit the dialogue to the government, asking that it reach out to the opposition "in the goal of bringing all the protagonists toward a peaceful political solution."

In the Algiers bombing, officials said, one person was killed and one wounded, but witnesses put the casualty toll higher.

The dead person had been blown to pieces, and the remains were seen deposited in a box in an ambulance. Some witnesses suggested the person may have been the bomber but there was no official word on that theory.

## TRAVEL UPDATE

## New Moscow Terminal for Aeroflot

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Aeroflot plans to start building a new passenger terminal this year at Moscow's international airport, officials said Wednesday.

The first stage of the project at Sheremetyevo airport is expected to cost \$50 million to \$70 million, said Igor Desyatichenko, the head of Aeroflot's economics department. Existing facilities will be updated, he said.

A tender will be held soon, with Russian and foreign investors likely to participate, the Interfax news agency quoted Mr. Desyatichenko as saying.

## Lucerne Prison to Become a Hotel

**LUCERNE, Switzerland (AP)** — In a bid to attract low-budget travelers, Lucerne will open a new hotel — the local prison.

City authorities unveiled plans Wednesday for the 63-room hotel. The exercise yard will become a "leisure area," and there will be a restaurant and bar. The narrow, two-bed cells will remain. Inmates are to be moved to a facility outside Lucerne, and the hotel should open by April 1999.

Zimbabwe Will Review  
Prices in Wake of Riots

The Associated Press

**HARARE, Zimbabwe** — As policemen searched homes and arrested people with looted goods, President Robert Mugabe's government, battling to contain the worst civil unrest since independence, said Wednesday that it would review rising food prices.

Downtown Harare and outlying townships were calm as army troops in trucks and armored cars patrolled trashed suburban shopping centers after the rioting Monday and Tuesday.

Police said 300 people were arrested in the Chinchingwa neighborhood after being found with looted goods in door-to-door searches.

Later Wednesday, most businesses in downtown Harare shut down after the police and a military helicopter fired tear gas at crowds on a highway leading into the city.

After two days of rioting, the government sent troops on Tuesday to the capital and its volatile suburbs, where looting has been widespread.

It was the first time the government had dispatched troops to quell riots since the nation, the former Rhodesia, became independent in 1980.

Mr. Mugabe, who warned Tuesday that he would call a

state of emergency if rioting continued, led a cabinet meeting that named a three-member special ministerial committee to review food price increases, the Information Ministry said.

It said the cabinet appealed for people to go back to work "and not be hoodwinked by hoodlums, arsonists and other forces which have their own political motives."

For the first time, unrest spread to provincial centers southwest of Harare, witnesses said. Shops were looted late Tuesday and early Wednesday in the towns of Norton, Chegutu and Gweru.

The protests were sparked by a 21 percent increase in the price of cornmeal, a staple food, on Monday after increases of more than 25 percent on most essential goods during the first two weeks of the year. Cornmeal has doubled in price in four months.

## Correction

Due to an editing error, an article on the Social Democratic Party of Germany in Wednesday's editions misstated the year of Helmut Schmidt's departure from the chancellorship. The year was 1982.

## WEEKEND SKI REPORT

Report	Depth L U	Mts. Plates	Res. Pistes	Snow Last State	Comments
Andorra Skiarea	25 70	Good	by	Pd	191 good on upper slopes, up lower
Austria Ischgl	30 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, excellent, new snow
Kitzbühel	15 130	Good	Open	Pd	211 3180 ft open, great, new snow
Lach	115 125	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent skiing, lots of fresh powder
Mayrhofen	5 30	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, very good skiing
Obertauern	50 180	Good	Open	Pd	211 2110 ft open, new snow, very
Saalfeld	45 80	Good	Open	Pd	211 2110 ft open, new snow, very
St. Anton	65 200	Good	Open	Pd	211 2110 ft open, new snow, very
Canada Lake Louise Whistler	70 115	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, very good skiing
France Alpe d'Huez	130 250	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent snow conditions
Les Deux Alpes	155 300	Good	Open	Pd	211 superb conditions, lots of snow
Avoriaz	180 200	Good	Open	Pd	211 superb snow at all altitudes
Chamonix	45 250	Good	Open	Pd	211 3749 ft open, excellent snow
Courmayeur	165 200	Good	Open	Pd	211 6040 ft open, excellent snow
Les Deux Alpes	80 200	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent, fantastic ski options
Flaine	110 220	Good	Open	Pd	211 1722 ft open, superb snow
Megeve	60 170	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent snow conditions
Meribel	100 125	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent conditions everywhere
La Plagne	170 210	Good	Open	Pd	211 8970 ft open, superb conditions
Serre Chevalier	135 275	Good	Open	Pd	211 great skiing on all open runs
Tignes	165 300	Good	Open	Pd	211 very deep snow, high altitude not
Val d'Isère	145 250	Good	Open	Pd	211 superb skiing everywhere
Thorey	140 320	Good	Open	Pd	211 masses of fresh powder
Germany Garmisch	30 250	Good	Open	Pd	211 2463 ft open, excellent conditions
Italy Bormio	120 180	Good	Open	Pd	191 all the open, very good skiing
Cervinia	130 230	Good	Open	Pd	191 excellent skiing on all runs
Corviglia	30 120	Good	Open	Pd	191 5539 ft open, great skiing
Courmayeur	70 180	Good	Open	Pd	191 excellent skiing, lots of snow
Livigno	75 180	Good	Open	Pd	191 excellent skiing conditions
Salva	50 120	Good	Open	Pd	191 all the open, very good skiing
Norway Gallo	70 75	Good	Open	Pd	191 all the open, good on pistes
Sweden Cranes Montana	80 300	Good	Open	Pd	211 3121 ft open, fantastic conditions
Davos	80 180	Good	Open	Pd	211 8120 ft open, superb skiing
Klosters	50 180	Good	Open	Pd	211 2110 ft open, wonderful snow
Murren	100 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 8120 ft open, masses of new snow
Saas Fee	70 210	Good	Open	Pd	211 8120 ft open, masses of new snow
St. Moritz	80 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 great snow conditions everywhere
Verbier	80 200	Good	Open	Pd	211 8120 ft open, masses of new snow
Wengen	45 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 superb skiing conditions everywhere
Zermatt	45 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 excellent skiing on new snow
U.S. Aspen	110 115	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, great skiing
Steamboat	120 140	Good	Open	Pd	211 11222 ft open, 13573 ft open
Creased Butte	120 120	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, excellent skiing
Mammoth	240 270	Good	Open	Pd	211 11222 ft open, all the open
Park City	215 225	Good	Open	Pd	211 great skiing, almost everywhere
Vail	120 120	Good	Open	Pd	211 all the open, 174 miles of great
Winter Park	175 180	Good	Open	Pd	211 17220 ft open, all the open

## WEATHER

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe	Today	High	Low	Tomorrow	High	Low	Day After	High	Low
Algeria	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Andorra	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Armenia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Austria	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Belarus	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Belgium	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Bulgaria	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Czechia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Denmark	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Estonia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Finland	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
France	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Germany	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Greece	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Hungary	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Ireland	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Italy	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Latvia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Lithuania	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Malta	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Netherlands	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Norway	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Poland	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Portugal	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Romania	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Russia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Slovakia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Slovenia	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Spain	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Sweden	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Switzerland	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Turkey	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
Ukraine	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
United Kingdom	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16
USA	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16	19/24	24/24	16/16

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THE AMERICAS

# Voter Satisfaction With Clinton and Congress Soaring

By Richard Morin and Claudia Deane  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Americans are far more satisfied now than at any time in recent years with the overall direction of the country, their elected leaders in Washington and with the performance of the federal government, according to a Washington Post-ABC News national survey.

Economic growth at home and relative peace abroad continue to benefit President Bill Clinton, whose job approval rating stands at 60 percent — the 22d successive time since mid-1995 that Mr. Clinton's approval rating has topped 50 percent in Post-ABC News polls.

At the same time, public support for Congress is as high now as it was in the euphoric days immediately after the Gulf War in 1991. Three out of four Americans approve of the job their representatives in Congress are doing, a record for the

1990s. Two out of three say their representative "deserves" to be re-elected — an early sign that this year's congressional elections may be less volcanic than those in 1994 or 1996.

Though half the country continues to express some unhappiness with the federal government, far more people than ever say they are satisfied with the way government is working and fewer people say they are angry.

Even those "angry white males" of elections past seem less dyspeptic today than they were just a few years ago. According to the survey, 44 percent of all working-class white men interviewed said they were at least "satisfied" with the performance of the federal government, more than double the 20 percent who expressed a similar view in January 1995.

Newt Gingrich, the Republican speaker of the House, also is enjoying a surge in respect, if not popularity: 40 percent of those inter-

viewed said they approved of the job Mr. Gingrich is doing as speaker, up from 26 percent in April. But only 32 percent said they had an overall favorable impression of Mr. Gingrich, up from 23 percent nine months ago.

While the president and Congress have benefited from buoyed public spirits, Vice President Al Gore has not. The proportion of Americans who question whether Mr. Gore has the honesty and integrity to be president stands at 46 percent, up slightly from 43 percent in October.

As for feelings of national well-being, half of those interviewed said the country was "seriously off on the wrong track." But that's down from 77 percent just two years ago, and 44 percent said the country was headed in the right direction, more than double the proportion who expressed similar optimism in 1996.

Americans also see potential problems ahead. More than half of those interviewed said they expected

the economy will be hurt at least somewhat by a succession of financial crises in Asia. And the on-again, off-again confrontation with President Saddam Hussein of Iraq remains a concern, the survey suggests.

The survey found economic confidence at record levels. According to the poll, 75 percent of those interviewed described the economy as "very good" or "good," up from 64 percent less than a year ago.

A total of 1,206 randomly selected adults were interviewed from Jan. 15 to Jan. 19. The margin of sampling error for the overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Mr. Clinton clearly benefits from good economic times.

His job approval rating stands at 68 percent among those who think the economy is doing well. But among the 24 percent of those interviewed who said the economy was performing badly, just over a third — 36 percent — said they approved of

the president's performance.

Nearly two in three approve of the way Mr. Clinton is handling race relations, including 8 out of 10 blacks interviewed. Even half of all Republicans say Mr. Clinton is doing a good job on race.

A majority of those interviewed also approve of the way the White House is handling foreign affairs. But approval for Mr. Clinton's Iraq policies is declining. Currently, 53 percent support his handling of Iraq, down from 60 percent in November and 70 percent in September 1996.

The survey found that Congress as an institution is more popular now than at any time in recent history. Nearly half — 47 percent — say they approve of the job that Congress is doing.

Individual members are even more popular. Three out of four respondents said they approved of the job their representatives are doing, a view shared by half of those interviewed in a Post-ABC News survey in October 1994.

## Feinstein Says She Won't Run

LOS ANGELES — Senator Dianne Feinstein, the front-runner among California gubernatorial hopefuls this year, has ruled out a race for the Democratic nomination, saying she did not want to run in a "very debilitating campaign environment."

Ms. Feinstein said campaigns in California had deteriorated to the point "that there is very little uplifting or constructive about the process."

She said she would rather spend the next year working on issues that "contribute something positive" to the state and the nation.

Governor Pete Wilson, a Republican, cannot run again because of term limits. Ms. Feinstein, the only one of six potential Democratic contenders to lead Dan Lungren, the state attorney general, in statewide polls, made her decision less than two weeks after President Bill Clinton urged her to enter the race. (WP)

## Welfare Rolls Hit 28-Year Low

WASHINGTON — The number of people on federal welfare rolls has dropped below 10 million for the first time in more than 25 years, Clinton administration officials said.

Fewer than 4 percent of Americans are now on welfare, the smallest proportion since 1970, the government reported.

The President's Council of Economic Advisers says that more than 40 percent of the decline is attributable to growth of the economy. More than 30 percent results from changes in federal and state welfare policies and laws, the council said. The remainder is ascribed to other factors, including more aggressive collection of child support. (NYT)

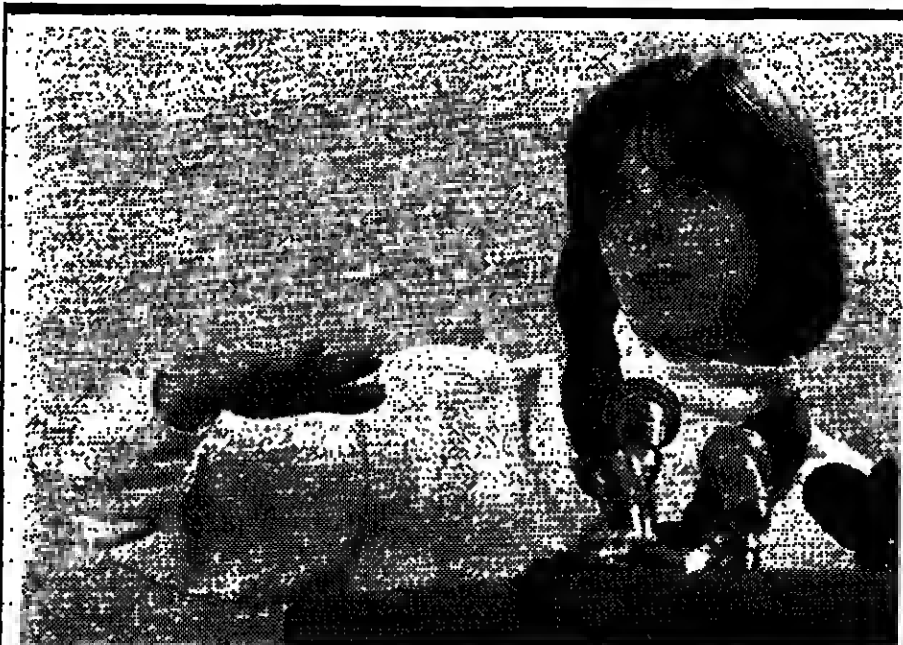
## Protest Over Surgeon General

WASHINGTON — Conservatives, including Senator John Ashcroft, Republican of Missouri, have started a drive to block Senate confirmation of David Satcher as surgeon general, setting the stage for a potentially raucous fight over his nomination after Congress reconvenes next Tuesday.

At a news conference sponsored by the conservative journal Human Events, Mr. Ashcroft and representatives of the Christian Coalition and the Family Research Council objected in particular to Mr. Satcher's support for Mr. Clinton's stand opposing passage of legislation to ban what critics describe as "partial-birth" abortions. (WP)

## Quote/Unquote

William H. Ginsburg, who is representing a young woman in an investigation by the independent counsel Kenneth Starr of allegations of a new sexual scandal with President Clinton: "If he did have a sexual relationship with a 23-year-old intern, I question his judgment. If he didn't, then I think Ken Starr and his crew have ravaged the life of a youngster." (LAT)



SPACE BOUND — Barbara Morgan, the backup to Christa McAuliffe, who died when the Challenger exploded in 1986, is training for a space shuttle flight.

## AMERICAN TOPICS

### Montana's Goal: Reel In Cash As 'Switzerland of the Rockies'

Montana, the Big Sky state known for its wide-open spaces and trophy trout, is offering a new attraction: numbered bank accounts. Last month, it completed regulations to become the first state to open offshore banking haven, allowing special depositories for wealthy overseas clients seeking privacy.

But a Switzerland of the Rockies? Skeptics fear the plan will attract dirty money, with drug and mob connections, reports The New York Times. Optimists, however, call it the ideal tax, one paid by somebody other than residents and voters.

"There is about \$3 trillion in money in these kinds of accounts, mostly in Switzerland or the Grand Caymans," said State Senator Mike Sprague, a Republican sponsor of the bill that was passed overwhelmingly.

"If we could only get a fraction of that amount, say \$75 billion, and from that generate a billion dollars in fees — that would take care of the entire state share of the budget," he said.

Whether depositors would actually choose to hide their money in Hungary-Horse instead of St. Moritz is another question. So is the problem of tainted money. Montana rules say depositors cannot be U.S. citizens or convicted felons, and must deposit at least \$200,000. But federal officials are concerned. "It's very hard to know your customers in these kinds of offshore arrangements," said Raymond Kelly, undersecretary of the Treasury for enforcement.

Montanans, facing a somewhat flat economy, say it's worth the gamble. So far, they have invested only \$18,000 in smidgy offshore banking regulations. "For the price of a good used pickup truck," said Mr. Sprague, "what can we lose?"

### Short Takes

Los Angeles officials hope they have found an answer to the problem of wandering pets: computer chips. By implanting a chip the size of a grain of rice under the skin of a pet's neck, lost pets can be reunited with owners, and fewer strays have to be killed. The chips are inserted with a needle in a painless procedure; when animals are brought to a shelter, they are scanned like groceries to learn the owner's identity. The idea, already used in some other cities, had some bugs: scanners from one company did not always pick up the code from another's chips. Now the problem has been eliminated.

These days, railroads in America seem to suffer from an unending string of indignities, of cuts in budgets and service. But only people of a certain age recall the revolution that the rails brought to daily life for millions in small towns. Older Americans can remember growing and canning their own food, weaving their own cloth, building their own furniture.

Suddenly, notes *Invention & Technology* magazine, the railroads created a nationwide market. In the late 19th century, the winter diet often consisted of meat, potatoes, turnips, cabbage and masses of pickles. By springtime, nearly everyone was sick. But by the 1920s, fresh produce from Florida and Southern California, shipped in refrigerated trains, had transformed diets, and lives.

In an unusual self-imposed moratorium, chefs at some 25 top restaurants along the East Coast and into Texas are dropping swordfish from their menus. The reason: fears that overfishing of North Atlantic swordfish could leave the species too rare to be worth bunting. The fish, which can reach 1,200 pounds, were once caught by single-shot harpoons; now they are caught on hooks that dangle from lines up to 40 miles long. The North Atlantic swordfish population is down by an estimated 68 percent since 1960. The situation is not so dire in the Pacific.

Brian Knowlton

## Unabomb Suspect Fit for Trial

### Judge Holds Kaczynski to Mental-Illness Defense

By William Glaberson  
New York Times Service

SACRAMENTO, California — Theodore Kaczynski is competent to stand trial on charges that he is the Unabomber, defense lawyers have conceded.

Then, with that issue resolved, the federal judge in the case suggested Tuesday that he would keep the current defense team in place and told Mr. Kaczynski to an agreement to use a mental-illness defense at least in the penalty phase of his trial. The trial is scheduled to begin Thursday.

Judge Garland Burrell of U.S. District Court suggested that Mr. Kaczynski had asked to represent himself too late and only to delay his trial. And the judge said the appointment of new lawyers

would only postpone a struggle over whether Mr. Kaczynski or his lawyers should control the question of whether to portray him as mentally ill as a way to try to avoid the death penalty.

Mr. Kaczynski is accused of mailing bombs that killed two people and maimed two others. His protest against a psychiatric defense would surface with almost any new lawyer, the judge said. Then, he said, "We will be right back in the situation we're in right at this moment."

The concession that Mr. Kaczynski is competent came after the defense lawyers and the judge reviewed a sealed competency evaluation that was filed this weekend by Sally Johnson, a court-appointed psychiatrist.

Because prosecutors bad

maintained that Mr. Kaczynski met the low threshold of mental fitness to be qualified to stand trial, the concession by the defense resolved the issue without any ruling from the judge.

Dr. Johnson's report, which was filed under seal and not released publicly, concluded that Mr. Kaczynski, while competent to stand trial, suffers from serious mental illness, including "schizophrenia, paranoid type," said a lawyer who had consulted on the case and had read the report.

That is the same diagnosis the defense team has suggested applies to Mr. Kaczynski. Dr. Johnson concluded that Mr. Kaczynski had delusions that he was being "molested and harassed by family members and modern society."

## Congress Buzzes With Plans for Tax Code Reform

By Eric Pianin and Clay Chandler  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Open season on the tax code has officially begun, with leaders from both parties proposing dramatic — and dramatically different — changes in the way Americans would pay taxes.

The House Ways and Means Committee chairman, Bill Archer, Republican of Texas, sought to stake a claim on prospective budget surpluses by proposing \$200 billion of new tax cuts and loopholes in the coming decade, elimination of the "marriage penalty" this year and a limit on all future federal revenue to 19 percent of the total economy, a reduction from the current 19.9 percent share.

He also called for lowering and simplifying the capital gains tax as well as a number of other measures that would primarily benefit upper-income households.

At the same time, the House minority leader, Richard Gephardt, Democrat of Missouri, reprised his proposal for revamping the tax code to eliminate most major deductions.

He said in a speech that his plan would oblige three-quarters of Americans to pay no more than 10 percent of their income in taxes and dispense

with the need for the majority to file tax returns. His plan would be partially financed by a \$50-billion increase in taxes on corporations.

The plans are the latest in a deluge of Republican and Democratic proposals for using future surpluses for major tax relief and reform, as well as to begin paying off the \$5.6 trillion national debt. Even within the parties, there is little agreement on how, or if, tax changes might happen.

With the return of Congress next week, the Ways and Means Committee, the chief tax-writing panel, will launch a series of hearings on overhauling the tax code and reforming or abolishing the Internal Revenue Service as part of a larger debate over how best to move from an era of massive deficits to one of fast-growing surpluses.

Budget surpluses will total roughly \$660 billion in the next 10 years, according to the latest estimates of the Congressional Budget Office.

While government watchdog groups and many economists are urging Congress to devote most of future surpluses to debt retirement and stabilizing the Social Security and Medicare systems, Mr. Archer and other Republicans and Democrats are clamoring for big tax cuts to boost consumer power, slow the

growth of government spending, and carry favor with voters in an election year.

"I believe in a balanced budget and fought to enact one," said Mr. Archer, one of the architects of last year's balanced budget and tax cut agreement.

But he added that, "mere balance must not be society's highest goal."

"The giant sucking sound you hear," he said, "is the sound of taxes being removed from workers' paychecks, depleting families the ability to

better care for themselves."

The prospect of a surplus has scrambled traditional partisan alliances in Washington, reshuffling legislators into what Clint Stetich, tax director of the accounting and consulting firm Deloitte & Touche, calls "a new three-party system" made up of "Spend-its" (those who favor using the surplus for new federal programs), "Bank-its" (those who want to use the excess to pay down the national debt), and "Return-its" (those who want to give the

windfall back to taxpayers).

But congressional leaders have virtually ruled out any wholesale changes in the tax code this year, such as the call by the House majority leader, Richard Armitage, Republican of Texas, for a flat tax or Mr. Archer's push for a national sales tax. Many analysts also think it unlikely that congressional Republicans will follow through this year with a pledge to mandate elimination of the present tax code as a way of forcing the debate on an alternative.

## Pope Urges Cuba and U.S. to Find a 'Better Way'

The Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE — Pope John Paul II pressed the Cuban leadership Wednesday to make progress on human rights, and be called for change in the United States' policy of imposing an embargo on the Communist nation.

"You know very well what I think about human rights — the same that I have spoken about in Poland and so many countries beginning in 1979," the Pope told reporters aboard the plane taking him to Cuba.

"Human rights are fundamental rights, and the foundation of all civilization for regulating social communication," he said.

The Polish pontiff, who is widely credited with helping bring down communism in his homeland, said his experience confronting Poland's "Communist totalitarian system" had led to his belief in the power of human rights.

Asked about the situation in Cuba over the last 40 years, he gave the government cred-

it for advances in schooling and health.

"I hope there will also be progress in the order of human freedom," John Paul said. "In the dignity of the person. This is the area where there is progress to be made."

Asked whether he had a message for the United States regarding its economic embargo, the Pope said, "To change, to change." Noting the interest the trip had generated in the United States, the pontiff said, "Perhaps both Cuba and the United States are looking for a better way."

### Away From Politics

A murderer who came within hours of execution five years ago before exercising a last-minute appeal was put to death at the Stateville Correctional Center in Illinois after waiving all appeals. Lloyd Wayne Hampton was convicted of killing a retired janitor during a robbery.

A World War II veteran who blamed a flashback to his days as a prisoner of war in Japan for killing his son-in-law has been sentenced to at least 35 years in prison in

California. A jury convicted Richard Koech of shooting his son-in-law five times. (AP)

Attorneys for the Teamsters president, Ron Carey, said at a federal disciplinary hearing that the union leader was the innocent victim of convicted felons. Reid Weingarten said that Mr. Carey's former campaign manager, Jerry Nash, had been out to line his own pockets but got caught by federal prosecutors and was now implicating Mr. Carey in an effort to reduce his sentence. (WP)

angels in service of the poor," the Pope said. "We're not angels. We're men."

He said his visit was historic because there had been no opportunity for such a visit before. Asked what the outcome might be, he said, "I am not a prophet. There is an expression — 'Let's wait and see.'"

The Pope looked in fine form as he answered questions in four languages for 18 minutes during the 12-hour plane trip.

Asked how he felt, John Paul joked, "I am older than in 1979," when he became Pope.

But traveling as pontiff, he said, "has kept me going," adding, "To learn about my health, I have to read the newspaper."

### Exiles Return in Hope

Molly Moore and Serge F. Kovaleski of The Washington Post reported earlier from Havana:

As the first planeloads of Cuban-Americans arrived in preparation for the pontiff's visit, Havana's Jose Marti airport was transformed into a massive celebration of family reunions. Three generations of Cubans and their American relatives clutched one another as their sobs and cries echoed throughout the terminal.

"There wasn't a good opportunity to come here before," said Carlos Seleya, 52, a Florida accountant returning to Cuba after 36 years. "The Pope coming here will make life better not just for Christians. It will make Castro make life better for everyone."

More than 1,000 Cuban-American exiles are expected to travel to Cuba this week.



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## ASIA/PACIFIC

## Cohen, at DMZ, Defends U.S. Stance on Mines

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**CAMP BONIFAS, South Korea** — The U.S. defense secretary, William Cohen, inspected the intricate military defenses on the border with North Korea on Wednesday and defended Washington's refusal to sign a treaty banning anti-personnel land mines.

Mr. Cohen stood at a fence on the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas and said the United States and South Korea needed tens of thousands of mines planted here to help deter a North Korean attack.

"Without the land mines, the capacity for the forces in the North would be certainly eased to roll through this area to downtown Seoul," he said.

Wearing a leather jacket against bitter cold on the final visit of a seven-nation Asian trip, Mr. Cohen noted that the North's army rolled across the border and through the same corridor in 1950 to start the three-year Korean War.

He walked down a narrow, paved road flanked by grassy, deadly minefields and tank traps and later watched U.S. and South Korean forces practice with live fire from tanks and machine guns on a gunnery range.

But the main event was the secretary's reiteration of the U.S. explanation of President Bill Clinton's refusal to agree to an international treaty in Canada last month to ban anti-personnel land mines.

The mines have killed and maimed thousands of civilians in countries from Cambodia to Namibia. More than 100 other countries agreed to the treaty in Ottawa.

"It is important to remind all of the people as to why the president felt so strongly," Mr. Cohen said, "and why we felt very strongly, that we had to focus upon the land mines that are here, and notwithstanding political pressure, which was significant."

He met U.S. soldiers at Camp Bonifas not far from the fence in the four-kilometer-wide (2.5 mile-wide) Demilitarized Zone established by the truce.

A U.S. military official, who asked not to be identified, told reporters traveling with Mr. Cohen that nearly a million mines had been buried by South Korean forces along the border and that the United States stood ready to quickly add millions of its own mines to the mix of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines if war broke out. The official said 35

people had been killed and 43 had been wounded in mine accidents along the border since 1992, and that about one-third of the casualties had been civilian.

The United States has promised that it will join a ban on anti-personnel mines when a viable alternative is developed, but that, meanwhile, the weapons are a key to defense of South Korea.

"We have 37,000 troops in South Korea and we intend to provide for their protection," Mr. Cohen said. "Without these mines, our troops would be vulnerable, the people of South Korea would be vulnerable, to a surprise attack and to the strength of a million-man army on the other side of the DMZ."

Mr. Cohen arrived in South Korea from Japan earlier in the day on the last stop of a tour to improve U.S. relations with China and assure allies of Washington's support in a regional economic crisis.

He was to talk Thursday with the South Korean president, Kim Young Sam, and with the president-elect, Kim Dae Jung, who won elections last month and will take office Feb. 25 in a country whose economy has been devastated.

While tensions have eased somewhat

since the beginning of peace talks in December involving the two Koreas, China and the United States, both U.S. and South Korean forces remain in a high state of alert in case of any attack from the North. The peace talks are scheduled to resume in Geneva in March.

On a hectic day that began with a morning news conference in Tokyo, Mr. Cohen also went aboard the aircraft carrier Independence at Yokosuka naval station outside the Japanese capital to give its officers and crew a personal sendoff. The Independence is due to head to the Gulf on Friday to replace the Nimitz. It will be the final mission for the "Indy" before it is retired.

At the news conference, Mr. Cohen expressed "personal regrets" to the Japanese public for a flap caused by the rush to get the Independence's fighter aircraft ready to depart for the Gulf on Friday.

The planes in recent days practiced night landings on the carrier, but Japanese officials were not given the required advance warning. Mr. Cohen said there had been complaints that the noise disrupted the studies of students preparing for exams. (Reuters, AP)



Mr. Cohen greeting troops Wednesday on a firing range near the DMZ.

## BRIEFLY

## India Restricts Polls

**NEW DELHI** — The Election Commission said Wednesday that the publication or broadcasting of opinion polls would be banned for two weeks starting Feb. 14, two days before India's general election gets under way. A commission official, who asked not to be identified, said the ban had followed consultation with political parties. Exit polls will be banned until the evening of Feb. 28, when the third phase of voting ends, he added.

Indians will elect members of the lower house of Parliament in four days of voting ending March 7. (Reuters)

## China Activist Freed

**BEIJING** — A veteran labor-rights campaigner has been released from a Chinese prison farm, his nearly four-year term completed, members of China's dissident community said Wednesday.

Zhou Guoqiang left the Shuanghe labor camp in Heilongjiang Province on Tuesday after his wife traveled the 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) from Beijing to get him, said Chu Hailan, whose husband was imprisoned at Shuanghe with Mr. Zhou. Members of Mr. Zhou's family could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Zhou, a lawyer, was detained in March 1994 for trying to set up an independent labor union. (AP)

## Hun Sen Assails UN

**PHNOM PENH** — Cambodian leaders, on the eve of a visit by the

United Nations' top human-rights official, have accused the world body of interference and warned it not to protect Cambodia's deposed first prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Second Prime Minister Hun Sen and his replacement for the prince, Ung Huot, wrote to the high commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, who is due Thursday in Phnom Penh, saying that the United Nations should not assist in the return of Prince Ranariddh. In July, Mr. Hun Sen overthrew the prince, who has since been charged with security-related crimes.

"May we remind you," they wrote, "that the monitoring of returning exiled politicians does not include protection of people who were officially accused of crimes against the royal government, as such action would constitute a gross interference in the judiciary process and a gross violation of the UN Charter." (Reuters)

## China Readies Fowl

**HONG KONG** — Hong Kong people may have fresh Chinese chicken for the Lunar New Year next Wednesday, following signs that China has not been affected by the avian flu that has killed six people here.

China has instructed quarantine officials in the southern province of Guangdong to complete preparations for the resumption Friday of chicken shipments to Hong Kong, reports from the mainland said Wednesday.

Hong Kong imported 75,000 live chickens a day from China before the outbreak among humans of the H5N1 virus forced the government to ban live chicken deliveries last month. (Reuters)

## Asian Guessing Game: Who Are 2 New Cardinals?

By Steven Mufson  
Washington Post Service

**BEIJING** — Two secrets close to Pope John Paul II's heart have become the subject of speculation in Asia, where Roman Catholics believe that two newly chosen cardinals whose names the Pope has concealed might be located in China, Vietnam or North Korea.

In announcing the selection of 22 new cardinals this week, the Vatican said the Pope was keeping the names of two of them in *pectore* — from the Latin for "in my breast" — for fear that revealing their names would endanger the prelates or the local church.

The mere hint that the Pope might have secretly elevated an Asian bishop to cardinal has stirred Catholics in Asia, where those loyal to the Vatican often face arrest or other obstacles to worship.

"If it were true, it would be a sign of

the big love the Holy Father has for the church in China," said Monsignor Fernando Filoni, a church official based in Hong Kong.

Joseph Kung, who lives in Connecticut with his exiled uncle, Ignatius Kung Pimmi, China's only known Vatican-approved cardinal, said that if the Pope has chosen a Chinese cardinal "it means that the Pope has taken notice of all the sufferings, of all the work of the underground church" in China.

"It would be a reward for the bloodshed of the past and the suffering going on right now," he said.

Not even the two men the Pope has secretly chosen will be told of the Pope's decision. The Pope will reveal their names only when the cardinals are out of danger or when they have died. If the Pope dies first, his secret dies with him.

Cardinal Kung, now 96, was made a cardinal in *pectore* sometime during the

30 years he spent in jail in China starting in 1955. In 1989, the year after he was allowed to go to the United States for medical treatment, Cardinal Kung had an audience with the Pope and learned that he had been selected a cardinal. The Pope did not announce the choice until 1991.

Whoever has been chosen, said another source in the Hong Kong church establishment who deals with the Chinese church, "can't go get his red hat and hang it."

"This is given in the heart, in secret," he said.

If the person picked by the Pope ever learns of the choice, then it will serve "as a consolation and reward for this man, whoever he is, and to send him to his eternal reward happy that the church has taken notice," the source said.

Here in China, speculation is centered on a few of the better-known bishops from the unofficial church, al-

though church officials in the region say there is not any obvious candidate. The possibilities include Bishop Fan Zhongliang of Shanghai, Bishop Su Zhimin of Baoding, Bishop Wang Min of Gansu Province, and Bishops Liu Guandong and Jin Zhiguo of Hebei Province. Most of them spent long periods in jail or labor camps during the Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976, and most have been in and out of detention in recent years as they rose through the underground church hierarchy.

Although Chinese Catholics are far more free to worship than they were during the Cultural Revolution when hundreds of Catholic priests and faithful were sent to jail or labor camps, the Chinese government still harasses those who proclaim their ultimate loyalty to the Vatican rather than Beijing's Religious Affairs Bureau under the Chinese State Council.

## Bangkok Warns Workers After Police Quell a Protest

**BANGKOK** — The Thai government warned workers Wednesday that it would take tough action against violent or unruly protests after an outbreak of labor unrest.

The warning came after policemen armed with riot sticks and shields broke up a violent protest early Wednesday by hundreds of employees of an auto-parts company in the outskirts of Bangkok, injuring dozens and arresting 58.

Twelve policemen were injured. "I will not tolerate further mob rule

and will take tough action against protesters who cause difficulties for the public," Interior Minister Sasan Kajjornrasat said.

It was the first time in several years that the police had used force to disperse protesters in Thailand, signaling a tougher stand against unrest as the country goes through its worst economic crisis in decades.

More than 3,000 workers of the Thai Summit Auto Parts Industry Co. had been blocking the main Bangna-Trad road, about 20 kilometers (13 miles) from Bangkok, since Tuesday, in a dispute over bonuses.

The demonstration caused huge traffic jams in the approach to Bangkok and in the capital itself.

The police broke up the protest after about 500 of the workers threw rocks at

passing cars, burned a motorcycle, destroyed an automated teller machine and tried to storm the auto parts factory, which was guarded by police officers.

"The suspects are being held at a police detention center," a policeman said. "We will be charging them with causing public unrest and damaging public property."

If found guilty they could face jail terms of 5 to 10 years.

The auto-parts company had said it would cut bonus payments this year to one month from three previously, citing the economic crisis.

The incident revived memories of a similar protest at a Japanese-Thai electrical appliance company last year, when workers protesting cuts in bonuses set fire to an administrative building and parts of a factory on the outskirts

of Bangkok.

Some members of the public and industry leaders welcomed the tough police action on Wednesday.

"Use of force in such a deteriorating situation is needed and it was appropriate," said Saengchai Ekkanapich, a board member of the Federation of Thai Industries.

But he added, "In this time of economic crisis I would rather call on employees and employers to compromise more for the survival of both sides."

A political analyst, Seksan Sorn-in-sart, applauded the police action.

"I praise the officials who used law enforcement to end the violent protest," he said. "Those employees who are facing hardships can protest in their own factory and not cause trouble for the public."

## Java Chief Attributes Riots to Criminals

**SURABAJA, Indonesia** — The governor of Java Timur Province said Wednesday that unrest in the heavily populated region was the work of criminals and had no link with soaring food prices.

Mobs attacked shops and supermarkets in the Muslim province last week after increases in prices of essential goods. The region has been mostly calm this week, although stray incidents of stone-throwing have been reported.

Residents have blamed the price rises and suspected hoarding of food for the looting, which has sparked fears that Indonesia's worst economic crisis in decades could spill into the streets.

"The current problems are not due to rising prices but purely criminal," Gov-

ernor Basofi Sudirman said, "and the situation has been taken advantage of by people who want to create instability."

But Mr. Sudirman did say the situation in East Java and Surabaya, the provincial capital, could be more serious than elsewhere in Indonesia, although he did not elaborate.

There has been no apparent increase in security in Surabaya, the second-largest city in Indonesia after Jakarta.

But residents and church officials reported minor incidents in the southeast of the province.

There were reports of some shops being attacked Sunday and Monday around Jember, a town 200 kilometers (125 miles) southeast of Surabaya.

"These are only small problems which are caused by price rises. Some

stones were thrown at shops around Puger," a church official said, referring to a town near Jember.

Another clergyman said people lined up to buy cooking oil refused to go home in Jember after being told there was no more.

"They started to demonstrate, but security forces were there controlling the situation and there was no violence," he said.

Java Timur, a province of about 35 million people, is home to makers of wood and leather products, sports shoes, paper, textiles and coffee. It faces significant difficulties due to the economic crisis, as economists report that factories are dismissing workers. But they add that some export commodities are benefiting from the plunge of the rupiah.

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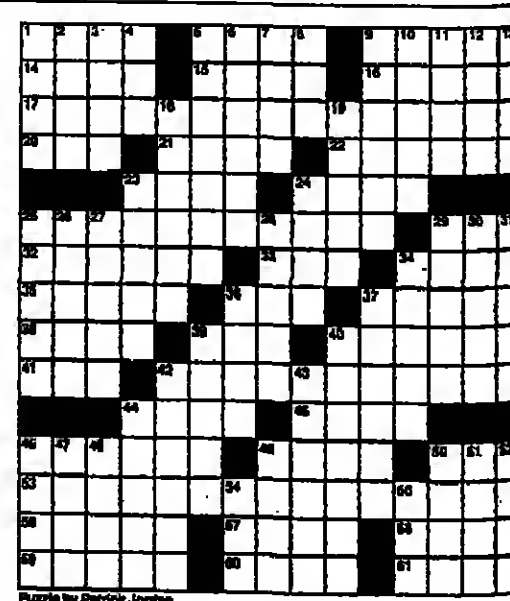
1 Come from —  
3 She's an inspiration  
4 Mythomaniac  
14 Star dangle  
15 Composer  
16 Paldani river  
17  
18 "Butterflies"  
19  
20 Radar signal  
21 Holes back to health  
22 Gaffer  
23 Missouri Valley tribesman  
24  
25 Shrouded

## DOWN

23 Globe-trotter's home  
24 It's blue on maps  
24 "Power" star, 1988  
25 "Less Than Zero" author  
26 Month on a cal.  
27 Maui neighbor  
28 Bomb  
29 Sheep turn  
30 Playing  
31 Dict. offering  
32 Curse  
33 Near the surface  
34 Say "There, there!"  
35 Lot of rows to hoe

## ACROSS

13 "White" and "scarlet" birds  
18 Computer command  
23 "There's many" —  
24 Belter  
25 Belter  
26 Make a comeback  
27 Winkle-resistant fabric  
28 Publicist's concern  
29 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympic gold medalist  
30 Tabriz citizen  
31 Condescend  
32 Country crooner  
33 Crystal



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## Solution to Puzzle of Jan. 21

DAFT CLEAR ACME  
RULE HELLO GOES  
FROM AGAIN GLOP  
FOUR FOUNDATION  
TITISM VERGE  
SADIST ESTES ALA  
DUE PAC ODOOR  
MEANDRYSHADDOY  
REAR JEANS  
FOR JEANS BRITS  
DITKA MAO BIT  
THEMOULINROUSE  
HADA SPILT WARE  
STAT YONES ENTO  
REYS ENTRY SAGE

## DOWN

1 — Romeo (sports car)  
2 Lou Gehrig, on the diamond  
3 Accomplished  
4 Make the call  
5 Structure near a flour factory  
6 Like the wicked stepmother vis-à-vis Cinderella  
7 196 sold in bars  
8 Swindler  
9 It's sold in bars  
10 Accustom  
11 Fruity drinks  
12 Sty tactic  
13 Boom makers

## DOWN

36 O.K. in slang  
37 Relax  
38 Like urban land  
39 Absorbent  
40 Father-to-be's activity  
41 Polar bear's domain  
42 Boobyard  
43 Exchange of words  
44 Paris airport  
45 Founder of one of the 12 tribes  
46 Dancer  
47 Pavlova

## DOWN

50 Word said before opening the eyes  
51 Headless  
52 Artist Edward Munch's home  
53 Continental abbr.  
54 Jackie's second



EUROPE

Havel Still Czechs' No. 1 Despite Narrow Victory

By Peter S. Green  
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — It was a slap in the face, but Vaclav Havel hardly seemed to mind. Late Tuesday night he was re-elected president of the Czech Republic by Parliament with a margin of only one vote in the 200-seat lower chamber. His opponents were a Communist, Stanislav Fischer, and the leader of the extreme-right Republican Party, Miroslav Sladek, who is in prison awaiting trial on charges of inciting ethnic hatred. But with his popularity at 70 percent in opinion polls, the election proved the Czech Parliament's growing dis-

NEWS ANALYSIS

tance from popular sentiment and in fact capped Mr. Havel's comeback as the country's political leader, a force that no Czech politician can ignore. Mr. Havel will probably become "king on the chessboard of political power" in his country, Martin Komarek, a commentator for the newspaper Mlada Fronta Dnes wrote Wednesday. Other commentators and politicians dismissed the narrow margin of victory as an act of petty revenge by the followers of former Prime Minister Vaclav Klaus, who was forced to resign in late November over a political financing scandal. Mr. Havel's election "proves that we have not yet gone completely nuts," said Petr Pithart, chairman of the Senate. Judging by the numbers, Mr. Klaus's supporters appeared to have joined the die-hard Communist Party and the extreme-right Republicans to oppose Mr. Havel, hiding behind the cloak of a secret ballot. "Political cowardice," asserted Tomas Zahradnick, a commentator. Several parliamentarians said it was only because the ballot was secret that Mr. Havel won by such a slim margin. "It was an expression of Czech political pettiness, an effort to humiliate someone," said Josef Lux, the agriculture minister and leader of the Christian Democrats. Now firmly ensconced in the presidential castle high above Prague for what will be his final five-year term, Mr. Havel has set himself the task of rebuilding a country that has fallen into a deep economic recession and an equally deep political and popular depression. Half-finished economic reforms that built a watered-down version of crony capitalism and drove the country into debt are threatening years of moderate growth. The stock market has bottomed out, inflation and unemployment are rising, and many large Czech companies are having increasing dif-



President Vaclav Havel and his wife, Dagmar, watching TV coverage of a session of the Czech Parliament.

ficulty selling their wares at home or abroad. Analysts say the Czech economy is rotten and needs a major overhaul. Already, Mr. Havel has had to step out of his preferred role as a sort of philosopher king to enter the political fray, outlining the new rules of the game and even selecting the main players. Family troubles, a fight with lung cancer and a bout of pneumonia in late fall had convinced many Czechs that their president was almost history. But when Mr. Klaus was ousted in November, Mr. Havel stepped back into the political fight, finally naming names and standing up for the moral principles that he had fought for as a dissident and as leader of the 1989 "velvet revolution" that overthrew Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. In an extraordinary speech to Parliament in early December, just after the government fell, Mr. Havel said society had fallen into a "post-Communist morass," which he blamed largely on Mr. Klaus's "cloak of liberalism without adjectives" that allowed "the most immoral people" to achieve the greatest success. Mr. Havel laid out a 10-point program for his country to get back in shape, including rebuilding a respect

for the rule of law, building popular support for the country's expected membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and European Union, cleaning up the country's horrendous pollution, rebuilding what Mr. Havel likes to call "civil society" and "reinvigorating" the economic transformation. The task will not be easy. After dismissing Mr. Klaus, Mr. Havel appointed the central bank governor, Josef Tosovsky, as prime minister, to lead the country toward early elections in June, and carry out some key reforms. But already, Mr. Tosovsky has threatened to resign over the constant sniping at his government by Mr. Klaus, and it is still not clear if Mr. Klaus and the opposition Social Democrats will be able to force early elections as they both hope. Mr. Klaus and his supporters have turned to blaming Mr. Havel's supposed last for power for the nation's political instability. Miroslav Macek, deputy leader of Mr. Klaus's Civic Democratic Party, says Mr. Havel has lost his right to be president of all the Czechs because he has taken sides against Mr. Klaus. "He is like Richard III. He wants power too much," said Mr. Macek,

comparing Mr. Havel to Shakespeare's power-mad English king. Mr. Macek, a translator of Shakespeare, has often been likened in the Czech press to Iago, the scheming villain in "Othello." But Mr. Havel has thrown down a gauntlet, telling his countrymen to love him or leave him alone. Before the presidential vote, he said, "I'm not clinging to my function." And he added: "I can imagine someone else being president and I even regret not having opponents with greater political support than those running against me." For many Czechs, the current uncertainty has only underscored the need for a figure of international stature like Mr. Havel. "He is a firm point in the political spectrum," said Mr. Lux, the Christian Democrat leader. "If Vaclav Havel had not been re-elected, many people abroad would have had doubts about our country, and we would begin to shift eastward." And Daniel Kummerman, a commentator for the daily newspaper Pravo, said: "The economic crisis and the finance scandals have discredited most of what Klaus stood for, and our only link to the November '89 era is Havel." He added: "Simply put, we need Havel."

West Lays Down Law On Bosnia's Currency

Ethnic Quarreling Over Design of Bills Spurs Spanish Envoy to Flex His Authority

By R. Jeffrey Smith  
Washington Post Service

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — In Bosnia, where even the smallest of national symbols can become snarled in the country's bitter ethnic quarrels, the appearance of a new currency has for months been the subject of particularly heated controversy and disagreement. On Tuesday, the West's top civilian official in Bosnia gave up trying to broker an agreement among Bosnia's three elected presidents on the currency's design. He declared by fiat a design for a "national" currency to replace the different bank notes circulating in different regions here. The step was a fresh sign of assertiveness and impatience by Carlos Westendorp, a Spanish diplomat and the West's High Representative in Bosnia, who acted under authority he obtained last year to hasten civil reform and move toward re-creating a single nation from the nationalistic shards left by the war that ended in 1995.

Mr. Westendorp plans in the coming weeks to flex his authority even more, deciding on the design of a national flag and license plate, as well as imposing new financial regulations, if Bosnia's Muslim, Croat and Serb leaders cannot agree. The new currency, to be known as the marka, is considered unlikely to de-throne the Deutsche mark as the central feature of every major private business transaction in Bosnia, United Nations officials said. But it will eventually play a central role in all transactions conducted with the government, and it will have legal standing in the Muslim-Croat federation and Serb Republic, the two Bosnian entities created by the 1995 Dayton peace accord.

As a result, it is seen by many Western officials here as an important political symbol, meaning that the geographic walls erected during the war are slowly being breached. "Politically, it's extremely important," said Rory O'Sullivan, director of the World Bank's mission here. He said trade between the two political entities in the country is virtually nonexistent, due to efforts by each side to isolate its economic system from the other. The issuance of a new currency also fulfills the first of a handful of key conditions set by the International Monetary Fund for making major loans to the Bosnian government. Those loans eventually will enable the government to pay the salaries of civil servants and thus increase its political power, the officials said. But the fact that the design of the

currency was imposed by Mr. Westendorp after the locally elected leaders could not agree among themselves during eight months of arduous negotiations also makes it clear that Western-led efforts to dispel the wartime culture of separatism and re-create a single national spirit still have a long way to go. In fact, the currency he selected will be printed in two slightly different versions for different parts of the country. Both series of notes will have Cyrillic and Latin lettering since Serbs and Croats use different alphabets. But one version, to be issued in the Bosnian-Croat federation, will feature leading historical and cultural figures who are either Muslim or Croat, while the second version, to be issued in the Serb Republic, will feature only famous Serbs, according to Mr. Westendorp's aides. "This is Bosnia. It is the same as nowhere," a senior UN official said, when asked to explain why the notes will not be uniform. "It is not a perfect solution. But politically, it was not acceptable to have a single design. It is the best we could do for today."

Mr. Westendorp's authority to take such actions despite objections from one or more of Bosnia's three presidents grows out of an August meeting in Bonn by the group of nations overseeing implementation of the Dayton accord. The group gave him a broad mandate to settle political and economic disputes if the politicians here missed a series of deadlines.

White House Rejects Former Envoy's Charge Of Leaks to IRA

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — The White House has dismissed allegations by a former U.S. diplomat that Britain stopped giving Washington sensitive intelligence on Northern Ireland because the intelligence often was leaked to the Irish Republican Army.

In his memoirs about the strained relations between Washington and London in 1994, Raymond Seitz, the U.S. ambassador to Britain from 1991 to 1994, wrote, "In this fractious atmosphere, London even stopped passing sensitive intelligence to the White House because it often seemed to find its way to the IRA." Mr. Seitz described the current U.S. ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith, as "an ardent IRA apologist," suggesting that the alleged leaks would have been through that avenue. He also said she became a "promotion agent" for Gerry Adams, head of the Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing.

The White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, defended Mrs. Smith on Tuesday, saying there was no substance to Mr. Seitz's allegations. "I have no basis to believe that that's true and good reason to believe it's not true," he said. "I don't think there is anyone here who believes that's a charge that merits pursuing," he added. In later comments, however, Mr. McCurry left the door open to an inquiry. "I did not mean to be cavalier about allegations of leaks of sensitive intelligence information," Mr. McCurry said. "Obviously, we take those matters seriously. And if it's proper to pursue those, they get pursued."

In Dublin, Mrs. Smith said Wednesday it was "unfortunate" that a former American envoy to Britain had said she favored the IRA. "It is unfortunate that Mr. Seitz has chosen to personalize this," Mrs. Smith, a sister of Senator Edward Kennedy, said in a statement. "Let the peace process talk for itself," she said. (AFP, AP)

BRIEFLY

French Pupils Got Vaccine Overdose

PARIS — France's health minister acknowledged Wednesday that 175,000 schoolchildren had been given an excessive dose of Hepatitis B vaccine in 1995, but said that only a small number suffered limited side effects. At a hastily called news conference after a Paris newspaper disclosed the incident Wednesday, Health Minister Bernard Kouchner sought to downplay another potential blow to France's health system. The system was badly shaken earlier in the decade by scandals over hormones and AIDS-tainted blood, and a newspaper, Le Parisien, asserted that the government had again covered up an error by failing to alert parents of the vaccine overdose. Days after the free Hepatitis B inoculations in November 1995, a number of children suffered adverse effects including vomiting, hacking out, stomach aches and headaches, Le Parisien reported. Health officials recalled the vaccine, which was distributed only in the Paris region, and determined that it was too strong for the 11-year-old children who received it, the paper continued. Officials decided to stop injecting the children with the vaccine, but the Ministry of National Education never informed parents of the vaccinated children, the paper said. Mr. Kouchner said the reactions had not been serious enough to issue a warning. "It didn't justify notifying 175,000 families," he said. "The vaccine was withdrawn right away, and the injected dose was cut in half." (AP)

Yeltsin Candidacy Is Hinted by Aide

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin might run for a third term in 2000 despite his previous rejection of the move and questions about his health, a Russian government official indicated Wednesday. "The prospect of Boris Yeltsin's participation in new elections exists, and it's one of the stabilizing factors for our society," said the first deputy prime minister, Boris Nemtsov. Russia's post-Soviet constitution limits the president to two terms in office. But aides have argued that Mr. Yeltsin's first term as president may not count toward the limit because he was elected the first time under the old constitution. Election officials say

the decision would have to be made by the Constitutional Court. (AP)

U.S. Priest in Milan Found Murdered

MILAN — An American priest was found slain Wednesday in his apartment adjacent to his church, the Milan police said. They identified the victim as the Reverend Gregory Steven Beheydt, 50, who served at the Anglican Episcopal Church of All Saints in Milan. A police official, Giuseppe De Angelis, said the victim was from Michigan and had lived in Milan since August. (AP)

Turkish Cypriots Protest on Visa

NICOSIA — The Turkish Cypriot government threatened Wednesday not to cooperate with British efforts to seek a solution to the Cyprus dispute after London announced that it would require visas from Turkish Cypriot travelers. "They are discriminating against us," said Taner Etkin, foreign and defense minister in the Turkish Cypriot cabinet. "Britain has lost its impartiality in the Cyprus issue." Cyprus has been divided since Turkey invaded the northern third of the island in 1974 to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority following an abortive coup by Greek Cypriots who supported union with Greece. The Turkish Cypriots declared an independent state in 1983, but this is recognized only by Turkey, which stations an estimated 30,000 troops in the north. Britain ordered visas on the holders of Turkish Cypriot travel documents this week on the grounds that there had been a surge in the number of asylum-seekers with unfounded claims. (AP)

Romanian Gamble

BUCHAREST — Prime Minister Victor Ciorbea of Romania on Wednesday staked his coalition government's survival on a confidence vote over a controversial privatization law. Any group wishing to topple the government has three days to file a censure motion on the issue. Of the 363 deputies and senators meeting in emergency session, 265 agreed with the agenda which allowed Mr. Ciorbea to ask for a confidence vote on the privatization law. (AFP)



RESISTING EXPULSION — A group of about 20 Kurds sitting in the Antoniter Church in Cologne on Wednesday. They took sanctuary when the German government rejected their plea against deportation to Turkey.

Paris Official Calls for a Rethinking of Bonn Alliance

PARIS — The French-German alliance is burdened by disagreements and needs to be rethought after the general election in Germany this year, the French minister for Europe, Pierre Moscovici, was quoted Wednesday as saying. Mr. Moscovici told the daily newspaper La Croix that Paris and Bonn, the driving forces behind Europe's integration drive, had strong differences on the

European Union's future enlargement, budget and institutions. "I should add that the team in Bonn has been in power for 16 years," he said, referring to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who is seeking re-election this year. "Whoever wins in September," he added, "there will be a need for a re-launch. This weighs out on the French-German context but on the European context in general."

Mr. Moscovici, a member of the Socialist Party of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, was also quoted as saying that relations with Germany were good and that senior officials met frequently. "But there are strong differences of interest between the French and the Germans," he continued. Germany wanted to expand the EU quickly toward Eastern Europe, with a small number of new members in the

first wave, while France wanted enlargement to be "a global and inclusive process," Mr. Moscovici said. On the EU's budget, he said to the paper: "They want to pay less and we do not want to pay more." The minister said France also wants a quick resumption in EU institutional reforms, which stalled at the summit meeting in June in Amsterdam when Germany blocked majority voting in certain areas.

Pierre Boulat Is Dead at 73

PARIS — Pierre Boulat, 73, a photojournalist who in 23 years at Life magazine produced portraits of countless celebrities, died Jan. 11 in Nemours, France, Le Monde reported. Mr. Boulat began his long career with Life in 1953, when the magazine published his picture of a tornado hovering over Paris. With an orange filter, it looked like a nuclear nightmare. Among Mr. Boulat's well-known

subjects were the first French tourists in the Soviet Union in 1955; a devastated Port Said after bombings of the Suez Canal in 1956; a study of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; the Algerian war, and the filming of Stanley Kubrick's "2001, A Space Odyssey." He also chronicled 30 years of Yves Saint Laurent creations. In 1973 he became an independent photographer and his work appeared in many well known magazines.

Swiss Break Swindling Ring

ZURICH — The Swiss police said Wednesday that they had broken up a swindling ring that had cheated 300 German investors. Two Swiss nationals were arrested on charges of fraud and forgery, but the alleged German ringleader had fled, the police said. Investors lost about 22 million francs (\$14.7 million), the police said, of which fewer than 3 million francs has been recovered. The investors were persuaded to put funds in a fictitious firm called the Federal Association of American Banks. They were told the money would be channeled into U.S. banks with state guarantees against losses. An investor realized that the firm did not belong to any official U.S. investment body and alerted the police.



## INTERNATIONAL

## Ex-Intern Just a Face in the Crowd

*The Associated Press*  
WASHINGTON — Monica Lewinsky was an unpaid White House intern in 1995 when she began the career that landed her in a new controversy involving President Bill Clinton.

Ms. Lewinsky, 24, finished college in the spring of 1995, just before she went to the White House. A spokeswoman for Lewis & Clark, Ms. Lewinsky's alma mater in Oregon, said she took her bachelor's degree in psychology, was not an honors student and was not known for any particular interest or activity.

Any anonymity she enjoyed at school, and later in jobs at the White House and Defense Department, was shattered by news reports alleging that she had had an affair with Mr. Clinton and was later asked by the president to lie if attorneys in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case asked her to testify about the relationship.

What is known about the woman behind the news stories is called from public records and colleagues.

Ms. Lewinsky worked without pay in the office of Leon Panetta when he was

White House chief of staff and six months later, in December 1995, moved to a paid position handling correspondence in the Office of Legislative Affairs.

In April 1996, she moved to the Defense Department, where she worked as secretary to a spokesman, Kenneth Bacon, until Dec. 26, 1997. She left that post at a salary of \$32,736.

Until late last year, she listed her home as the Watergate, the apartment building and hotel that was the scene of the break-in that led to President Richard Nixon's downfall.

## CLINTON: President Denies He Influenced Former Intern to Lie

Continued from Page 1

ted by the president's lawyers and approved by Mr. Clinton.

A three-judge appeals court panel authorized Mr. Starr on Friday to examine allegations of suborning perjury, false statements and obstruction of justice involving the president, The Washington Post reported, quoting sources.

It said that Mr. Starr had asked the Justice Department to forward the request to the panel and that Attorney General Janet Reno had quickly complied.

Mr. Clinton, in his PBS interview, which had been scheduled before the latest episode erupted, also denied that he had asked Mr. Jordan to coach Ms. Lewinsky on how to testify in the Jones case.

"I did not do that," Mr. Clinton said.

"I did not do that," the president said.

He said that Mr. Jordan "is in no way involved in trying to get anybody to say anything that is not true at my request."

"I didn't do that," the president said.

Mr. Clinton promised to cooperate with Mr. Starr's inquiry.

The president has survived many allegations in the past and emerged with his popularity intact. The new accusations, however, introduce the power of a criminal investigation.

"It sounds very serious," said Susan Low Bloch, a law professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

"If Starr can now go after Clinton for perjury, it makes the Paula Jones thing look trivial by comparison."

Representative Hyde was asked whether the case could lead to impeachment proceedings against the president.

While noting on CNN that nothing had been proved, he added of Mr. Starr: "If he verifies the authenticity of these charges, impeachment might very well be an option, because subornation of perjury and tampering with witnesses, obstruction of justice are very, very serious charges."

Mr. McCurry, asked in a long and stormy news briefing whether Mr. Clinton would cooperate with a possible impeachment investigation, replied, "There's no reason that I know of to think that we'll be dealing with something like that."

In the affidavit that Ms. Lewinsky gave Jan. 7 in connection with the Jones case, she denied having had an affair with Mr. Clinton, according to sources quoted by The Post.

Ms. Lewinsky, who left the White House job for a Pentagon position, is scheduled to be questioned Friday by lawyers for Mrs. Jones. They hope to establish a pattern of improper sexual advances by Mr. Clinton.

It was not clear how the current revelations might affect the Jones case, particularly if Ms. Lewinsky maintains her denial. She might, lawyers noted, assert that her comments on any recording were taken out of context or that she fabricated parts of the story.

Of more immediate legal concern would be alleged comments on the tapes that both Mr. Clinton and Mr. Jordan had

asked Ms. Lewinsky not to talk about the purported affair.

Such tapings would not constitute entrapment, lawyers said, because Ms. Tripp was a willing party, which is sufficient to make the tapings legal in Virginia, where they reportedly occurred, and Ms. Lewinsky is not charged with or suspected of any crime.

But the tapes might allow Mr. Starr to press her, under threat of a perjury indictment, to explain her affidavit denying any affair with Mr. Clinton.

William Ginsburg, a Los Angeles attorney who said he has long represented Ms. Lewinsky's family, would not confirm or deny the allegations, although he said of her that "at this time, she stands by her declaration" made to Mrs. Jones's lawyers.

He described Ms. Lewinsky and Ms. Tripp as friends, at least during the time they worked together at the White House and Pentagon.

But he did not flatly deny the allegations regarding Mr. Clinton.

"If he did have a sexual relationship with a 23-year-old intern, I question his judgment," Mr. Ginsburg told the Los Angeles Times. "If he didn't, then I think Keo Starr and his crew have ravaged the life of a youngster."

Mr. Ginsburg did confirm that Mr. Jordan, who is considered one of the most powerful of Washington insiders, had intervened to help Ms. Lewinsky find an internship with a New York public-relations firm, a position she was set to take up soon. She left her position as a public affairs assistant in the Pentagon a few weeks ago.

Mr. Ginsburg said he had had several discussions with Mr. Starr's staff. In a general way, he said, "Of course I'm concerned about an indictment."

Ms. Lewinsky went to work in the White House in 1995. Later, at the Pentagon, she worked in the same office as Ms. Tripp, who had moved there from her administrative position in the White House.

Ms. Tripp made the tapes over recent months, sources told The Post.

In a recent conversation, Ms. Lewinsky is alleged to have said that Mr. Clinton and Mr. Jordan had told her to testify falsely in the Jones case.

To some extent, said Ms. Bloch, the Georgetown law professor, the tapes could represent a case of "his word against hers."

Investigators, however, could seek independent confirmation of the charges by studying White House logs to see if she visited or called Mr. Clinton and phone company records to see if Mr. Jordan had called her.

Mr. Starr's role in the taping was challenged by several legal analysts.

"He is seeking affirmatively to expand his mandate into an area that transcends his Whitewater obligations," Michael Zeldin, a former independent counsel, said on CNN.

Mr. Starr was originally mandated to investigate the Whitewater real-estate affair in Arkansas. Mr. Clinton's home state, but expanded the inquiry gradually to cover the firing of employees of the White House travel office and the collection of FBI background files on former White House employees.

Mr. Zeldin and others noted that even if Mr. Clinton had had a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky, there would have been nothing illegal about it and presumably nothing to draw Mr. Starr's attention and intervention.

The alleged charges of witness-tampering would have come up only later.

## BRIEFLY



French riot policemen evicting an unemployed activist Wednesday from a government office in Paris. About 200 demonstrators held a sit-in.

## Jospin Promises to Link Jobless Aid to Inflation

PARIS — France's Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, under pressure to increase aid to the unemployed, vowed Wednesday to link unemployment benefits to inflation.

The statements appeared to be a softening of the hard line the prime minister took in remarks to the National Assembly on Tuesday in which he seemed to rule out fresh increases in jobless benefits despite six weeks of protests by the unemployed.

"I will do what is necessary to bring jobless benefits, which have not been revised since 1994, in line with price increases, and this will be done in its entirety and retroactively," Mr. Jospin said in a broadcast interview. (Reuters)

## Hutu Rebels Kill 45 In 2 Burundi Attacks

BUJUMBURA, Burundi — Hutu rebels have killed 45 people, all but one of them civilians, in two separate attacks in the past 48 hours, an army spokesman said Wednesday. Colonel Isaac Nibizi said National Lib-

## Guatemalan Envoy Visits Victims' College

ST. MARY'S CITY, Maryland — The Guatemalan ambassador to the United States, Pedro Lamport, visited St. Mary's College on Tuesday to express concern over the rape of five students who were on a study tour of the Central American nation.

"This is just one of those unfortunate happenings," Mr. Lamport said. Four suspects have been arrested in connection with the attack Friday, in which 16 students and teachers on a bus tour also were robbed. (AP)

## KING: French Royalists Keep the Flame Alive, and Commemorate a Famous Beheading

Continued from Page 1

French kings were buried for hundreds of years.

Many did Wednesday, while the Orleans branch of the family and their supporters filled Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois.

The split began in 1830, 16 years after the Bourbons had been restored to the throne, when a crisis forced Charles X to abdicate and his cousin the Duke of Orleans took over as Louis-Philippe, until the revolution of 1848.

The last French Bourbon heir, the Count of Chambord, died in 1883, and the Orleans branch of the family, according to experts in such matters, could rightfully claim the French crown if France ever decided to restore the monarchy again. Bourbon royalists counter with a claim for Prince Louis of Spain, a descendant of the grandson of France's Louis XIV who founded the Span-

ish branch of the Bourbon family in the 18th century.

Henri VI, count of Paris and the current head of the Orleans clan, will be 90 in July and has designated his son Henri, count of Clermont, 64, as his heir, after barring him for several years after the younger man divorced his blue-blooded wife and married a commoner in 1984.

For the most part, this sort of thing interests only readers of such royal-watchers' magazines as *Point de Vue* and frequenters of places like the Jockey Club, a deep-carpeted refuge off the Avenue Maignon so discreet that it does not even have a name plate on the door.

It is also so exclusive that it will accept as members only people who acquired their titles before the French Revolution. But it turned down an application from the Count of Clermont in 1994, reportedly because his ancestor the Duke of Orleans had been

in favor of beheading Louis XVI during the Revolution.

"The general is stupid," said a Bourbon supporter who declined to give his name.

"But it still goes on."

The extreme-right National Front party of Jean-Marie Le Pen, which says it would combat France's 12.4 percent unemployment by packing millions of North African immigrants back to where they came from, often attracts royalists to its rallies.

But the Count of Paris, while saying that a monarchy could unite the fractious French in these self-doubting times more effectively than squabbling political parties, says people are wrong to associate him with Mr. Le Pen.

"Lepensists are for the most part frustrated monarchists who keep saying 'All we have to do is...'" he said recently.

Some argue that France does not need to restore the monarchy because it already has

a royal institution, the presidency that was established for Charles de Gaulle by the 1958 constitution.

General de Gaulle and his successors through Francois Mitterrand ruled as if with orb and scepter, and Mr. Mitterrand's funeral in Notre Dame Cathedral two years ago was a ceremony fit for a king.

President Jacques Chirac brought an unpretentious middle-class normality to the office, inviting hundreds of young people to the presidential palace every July 14 for the Bastille Day party.

To invite the Count of Paris to a Paris dinner requires submission to stiff standards of protocol few ordinary mortals can meet, according to one who tried. "You have to submit the menu and the guest list two weeks in advance," the would-be host said. "He doesn't have the common touch at all."

## NAZI: Historians Seek Written Proof of Hitler Role in Holocaust

Continued from Page 1

At the same time, some historians say, Mr. Gerlach's theory would suggest that Hitler did not necessarily enter the war in 1939 intent on the destruction of the Jews, as it later evolved. And it would broaden the previous understanding of the Wannsee conference, casting its agenda as going beyond the creation of a blueprint for genocide.

"The open question of the 'treatment' of German Jews was one of the aims of the Wannsee conference," Mr. Gerlach said.

His thesis seems to conflict with other historical versions. In November 1996, for instance, Mr. Breitman, of American University in Washington, said newly discovered documents from the National Archives showed that as early as July 1941, after the German invasion of the Soviet Union, Jews were being systematically massacred, suggesting that a decision on the Holocaust was made earlier.

But Mr. Gerlach argued that the behavior of the German authorities toward Jews in occupied countries was uneven, suggesting there was then no master plan.

In a 44-page article in the latest issue of the journal *Werkstatt Geschichte*

(History Workshop), Mr. Gerlach wrote that in mid-to-late 1941 "a general order for the murder of German Jews had not yet been made," even though thousands of German Jews had been deported to concentration camps, some had been killed and Soviet Jews were already being methodically massacred.

On Dec. 18, 1941, however, Mr. Gerlach argued, Hitler met with Hitler and later noted that the discussion had covered "the Jewish question/to be exterminated as partisans," according to a document found in Soviet archives.

Taken together with other documents, Mr. Gerlach asserted, the notation signified that Hitler had arrived at a "global sense" of Jewish annihilation and had announced his decision to a secret meeting of 30 Nazi Party loyalists on Dec. 12, 1941 — a day after his declaration of war on the United States.

"The fundamental decision of December 1941 is a central, missing link in the decision-making process for the murder of European Jews," he wrote.

But some historians believe that Hitler's remarks could have alluded to the way Hitler wanted to publicly depict the systematic killing of Jews. Others maintain that the decision to in-

clude German Jews in the Holocaust had been made months earlier.

At the same time, the discovery of the Himmler note in the Soviet archive is seen as significant because of the overwhelming lack of documented evidence connecting Hitler to the Holocaust.

"Hitler's style seems to have been to do as much of the dirty work as possible through oral communications," said Mr. Breitman, author of a 1991 study of Hitler's role in the Holocaust — "The Architect of Genocide: Hitler and the Final Solution." He spoke in a telephone interview from Washington.

"This is an important find and Gerlach and his colleagues are to be commended on their research and discovery," Mr. Breitman said. "But the jury is still out on the exact interpretation of this meeting," he added, about the encounter between Hitler and Himmler.

Mr. Gerlach, an independent researcher at a center at the very Wannsee villa where the January 1942 conference was held, was not available to comment.

Mr. Monmsen, of Bochum University, dismissed the meeting on Dec. 12, 1941, as a routine affair. "Hitler gave one of his usual speeches," he said. "It was nothing special."

## Israeli Confined Over Pig Head

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A Jewish extremist charged with sedition for allegedly plotting to throw a pig's head into Jerusalem's holiest Muslim shrine during prayers was ordered Wednesday to be placed under house arrest.

Avigdor Eskin will be restricted to his home in Jerusalem as of Sunday and must pay \$140,000 bail, a district court judge ruled. However, he will be permitted to travel abroad for business purposes.

The state attorney submitted an appeal to overturn the ruling to the Supreme Court later Wednesday, the Justice Ministry said.

Mr. Eskin and Haim Peckovich are charged with planning to incite violence by throwing a pig's head into the Al Aqsa mosque compound during prayers for Ramadan, the Islamic holy fasting month, which began Dec. 30. Mr. Peckovich will remain in custody until the end of the trial, Israeli media reported.

## MIDEAST: Talks Focus on Troop Pullout

Continued from Page 1

be closed in a night," one official said.

Mr. Netanyahu was also expected to have a final meeting with Mrs. Albright at the airport before he left Wednesday. Israeli officials said, after her first conversation with Mr. Arafat.

U.S. officials were reluctant to discuss too many details of the proposals, which Mr. Clinton wants to present to Mr. Arafat when they meet Thursday. Mr. Arafat will be under considerable pressure to go along with the main thrust of the proposals, but is expected to push hard for a larger Israeli withdrawal before agreeing to enter final-status talks.

In the interview, Mr. Netanyahu said he and Mr. Clinton had "cleared the air" over mutual charges of snobs and disrespect, which included the prime minister's meeting, as soon as he arrived in Washington on Monday, with Christian fundamentalists such as the Reverend Jerry Falwell, who are fierce political opponents of Mr. Clinton.

"We went to great pains to remove any vestiges of what the president called the 'debts' of personal antagonism," Mr. Netanyahu said. "He distanced himself from some of these things, and Clinton went beyond that to try to re-establish a personal rapport again. My response was one word: 'Sure.'"

The single most important idea is to try to get to a permanent settlement," Mr. Netanyahu said in the interview. "That is where the bold and imaginative moves can be made by all sides, including an important contribution by the Americans."

"When the clear benefit of an overall

peace is in sight," he continued, "that justifies unconventional steps, and it justifies drawing on significant political capital, certainly of my own and I think of Arafat as well."

But to get there, he said, "we have to go through an interim step that strains our respective constituencies for no clear or apparent reason."

The Palestinians quickly point out that the reason is obvious: Israel's signing of the Oslo Accords that call for three interim withdrawals, and of the Hebron Accords that had set the date for them.

## Christian Right Backs Israel

Mr. Falwell has said that he and several leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention told Mr. Netanyahu that they would mobilize evangelical churches to oppose steps to give up any more territory to the Palestinians. The New York Times reported.

"There are about 200,000 evangelical pastors in America," he said Tuesday, "and we're asking them all through e-mail, faxes, letters, telephone, to go into their pulpits and use their influence in support of the state of Israel and the prime minister."

Mr. Netanyahu, who met with the evangelical leaders in Washington on Monday, is tapping a vein of support among evangelical Christians at a time when Israel is under pressure from the White House to break an impasse in the peace efforts.

But in courting conservative Christians, he has apparently angered President Clinton, who was said to have been outraged to hear that Mr. Netanyahu had met with Mr. Falwell.

## TAIWAN: Firms Hunt Bargains

Continued from Page 1

"The significance now is that the buying opportunities arrive sooner rather than later."

Taiwan's business push into the region coincides with a series of high-level political visits to Asian countries by Taiwan officials eager to win new friends with generous offers of aid. With one of the world's largest holdings of foreign-exchange reserves — about \$30 billion — and low external debt, Taiwan has been less affected than other countries by the regional crisis and is in a position to assist in the bailout of those hardest hit.

In recent weeks, Vice President Lien Chan of Taiwan made a highly publicized four-day trip to Singapore, where he was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and dined at the Raffles hotel with Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's elder statesman.

The prime minister, Vincent Siew, has been chatting with regional leaders on their "stopovers" in Taiwan, and Mr. Siew himself visited Manila last week and Jakarta this week for high-level talks about ways Taiwan could help in the current crisis. In addition, a 70-member Taiwan trade mission has just completed a swing through Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

So far, Beijing has reacted cautiously to the Taiwan overtures to the region, reminding countries that have relations with China that they should not hold official high-level talks with representatives of the Taiwan government.

"We are resolutely opposed to any form of official contacts with Taiwan by countries having diplomatic relations with China," Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a news briefing in Beijing this week.

On the commercial side, though, Chinese companies also seem to be doing their own regional bargain-hunting. For example, Bank of China was said to be interested in purchasing parts of the now-defunct Hoag Kong investment house Peregrine Investments Holdings Ltd.

JAN 22 1998



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OPINION/LETTERS

# America Has Amnesia Over Abortion Rights

By Frank Rich

NEW YORK — Before she found her current 15 minutes of fame as Paula Jones's camera-hogging front woman, Susan Carpenter-McMillan did the same for the anti-abortion crusade. As media rep for the Right to Life League of Southern California, she was a fixture on TV and radio, describing abortion as America's Holocaust. Her position was absolute: She opposed abortion as a legal choice, even for victims of rape and incest.

It was not until Ms. Carpenter-McMillan had been riding this horse for a decade that rumors forced her to tell the truth to the Los Angeles Times in 1990: She had had two abortions herself, one as an unmarried University of Southern California undergraduate in 1970 and a "therapeutic" abortion in 1983, even as she was a pro-life activist. The first of these abortions, occurring three years before the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, was not then a legal option for most American women.

Both of Ms. Carpenter-McMillan's abortions would have been flatly outlawed by her own political credo.

When asked by the Los Angeles Times reporter to justify her hypocrisy, she said, "It was my own private life, and I don't consider myself a public figure." Ms. Carpenter-McMillan could hardly have stated the pro-choice position more articulately. No matter who the woman, or what the circumstance, a woman's intimate decisions about childbearing are her "private life," out of government reach.

It is that privacy that Roe v. Wade protects.

This Thursday is the 25th anniversary of Roe, with a requisite media barrage that is no doubt daunting to partisans of every stripe. But of all the new polls, fresh reporting and reflections occasioned by this milestone, the most startling statistics and anecdotes are those that chart a persistent national malaise far more prevalent than abortion: amnesia.

Though most Americans support Roe v. Wade, pollsters tell us that many of those in their sample cannot instantly identify what it is. New York Times interviews with women waiting recently for abortions at clinics revealed a recurrent belief that

abortion had been legal for most or all of this century.

What has been forgotten is not only that abortion was illegal just a generation ago but also that it was prevalent in numbers comparable to today's even when it was illegal.

What this meant in practice was that well-off women and girls with either a sympathetic family doctor or the means to pay a clandestine abortionist could exercise choice with minimal risk to their privacy and health. Less fortunate women went to butchers or turned to often suicidal self-surgery. This is why maternal mortality rates fell 45 percent overnight in states like New York and California after abortion was legalized.

In our forgetful America, this past, though as recent as the Vietnam War, might as well be as far back as the Civil War. As long as Americans of childbearing age are oblivious to pre-Roe history, insidious threats to Roe are real.

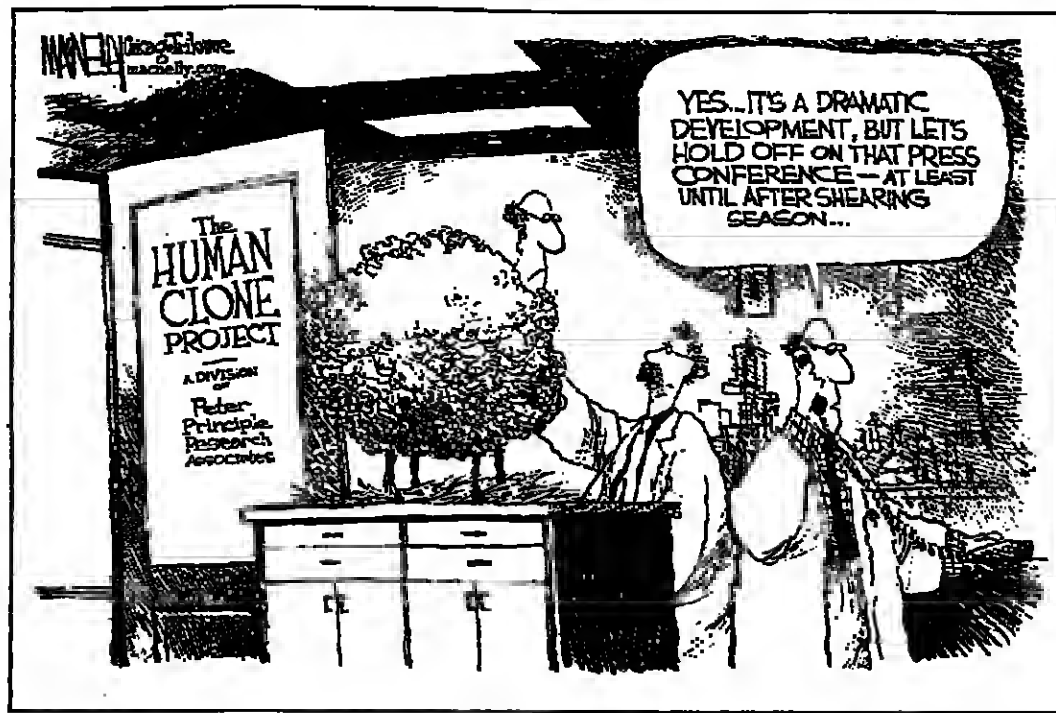
What is at stake is not the political Trojan horse named "partial birth abortion" — a procedure that, polls say, most Americans still can't identify and very few women need — but the broad restrictions already in place and growing. Congress, state legislatures, cowed medical schools and doctors terrorized by violent zealots are already explicitly or implicitly limiting access to abortion for poor, rural and frightened women.

Many of these women, of course, sincerely consider themselves pro-life right up to the moment that life intervenes. Tom Davis, a United Church of Christ minister who has organized a Planned Parenthood counseling network, has seen right-to-lifers demand an abortion and then go right back on the clinic picket line. Statistics reveal that this phenomenon is not uncommon.

Abortion is hardly an easy choice for such women, but neither is it for those who consider themselves pro-choice — no one is pro-abortion.

Should Roe fall brick by brick or even entirely, history tells us one result is certain: It will not be the affluent Susan Carpenter-McMillans, whatever their public politics, who will lose the autonomy and privacy the Supreme Court so democratically granted all American women just 25 years ago.

The New York Times



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Duty Toward Algeria

Why is it that only Western countries feel it is their duty to do something to stop the slaughter in Algeria?

There are four international groups that in theory should be directly concerned but that so far have done nothing to help Algeria. They are the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab Maghreb Union. Algeria is a member of all four organizations.

The statutes of the four groups specify that they are devoted to promoting peace and security in the member states. Surely their failure to act is as scandalous as the atrocities in Algeria themselves.

S.O. HUGHES,  
Rabat, Morocco

### Centered on Internet

Regarding "Seeking Internet Center for Europe and Asia" (TribTeech, Jan. 8):

While many critics are vying to host the European office of the Interactive Services Association, an Internet trade group, Geneva should be given serious thought because it hosts the following organizations directly relevant to the information society:

• The World Intellectual Prop-

erty Organization, which promotes the protection of industrial property and copyright.

• The International Telecommunication Union, which promotes standardization in the telecommunications industry.

• The International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission, which jointly develop standards for information technology.

• The European Broadcasting Union, the largest union of broadcasters in the world.

Moreover, Geneva's status as the most comprehensive and far-reaching city in the field of human cooperation, as well as its direct access to representatives of about 140 governments, would create a stimulating synergy.

Wasn't the World Wide Web created in Geneva by scientists working at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory?

STEVE BERNARD,  
Geneva

Regarding "With Techies Logged On Abroad, Corporate U.S.A. Fills in the Gaps" (Jan. 19):

One group neglected in the article is free-lancers such as myself — U.S. citizens who are able to enjoy extended stays abroad while continuing to maintain contacts with and earnings from clients back home. Hardly a "techie," I

am a corporate communications writer who, via the Internet, has not only obtained assignments from clients in the United States but also researched entire projects on the Net.

CHRIS WESTPHAL,  
Prague

### On Cloning Humans

Regarding "Reflexive Assumptions and the Cloning Test" (Opinion, Jan. 14) by E.J. Dionne Jr.:

The widespread apprehension about the cloning of human beings may be resolved by medical practitioners. Contrary to Mr. Dionne's belief, medicine will undoubtedly come up with some convincing need for human clones.

Clones would solve the basic obstacles to organ transplant surgery: dearth of organs and immunerejection. Any legislation against the cloning of humans is implicitly against the ideal solution for organ transplants.

THOMAS R. GARBE,  
Ibaraki, Japan

A human being created without his own genetic material and with the experiential expectation of being a replica would be denied, to my mind, the most fundamental moral and physical right — that of being an individual.

CHRISTINE FREMANTLE,  
London

# Microsoft: A Giant Ego People Love to Hate

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — I figured things were way out of perspective in the Other Washington when I heard that Bill Gates had put an inscription from "The Great Gatsby" around the domed ceiling of the library in his new \$60 million pad: "He had come a long way to this blue lawn and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it."

Mr. Gates was obviously unaware of the magnitude of the truth that he had unwittingly admitted. When he read about the blue lawn, he must have imagined com-

smallpox. You have to go in there and you have to nail it. If you leave it lying around, it will just come back."

When asked who they thought had done more good for the future of America, Bill Gates or Bill Clinton, more Americans chose Mr. Clinton. (Even though portfolio-obsessed Americans would still rather have their children grow up to be more like Mr. Gates than Mr. Clinton, by 47 to 24 percent.)

As Jacob Weisberg plaintively wrote in Slate, Microsoft's on-line magazine: "A few months ago, everyone I met seemed to think that working for Microsoft was a pretty cool thing to do. Now, strangers treat us like we work for Philip Morris."

The Times's Timothy Egan explored the angst that has gripped the Redmond, Washington, campus since Microsoft lost its sheen. Some fret that the fate of the entire Pacific Northwest is at stake.

All the instant millionaires in thermal shirts, droopy drawers and sandals with wool socks are suddenly wondering if it's All Worth It. They have staggered out of the Seattle fog long enough to listen to their inner browsers.

This has been a rude shock to them because they honestly believed that our Washington was full of anti-business, curmudgeonly bureaucrats, and their Washington was full of imaginative idealists and entrepreneurs who buy and sell to the beat of a different drum. They didn't reckon smokesack laws could apply to high technology.

As Mr. Gates's lawyer, William Neukom, told Steve Lohr of The New York Times: "We sincerely believe that we are a force for good in the economy."

Actually, Microsoft has been a force for greed in the economy, more brilliant at marketing and purloining and crushing than it has been at innovating.

The company saw the fight with the Justice Department as a defense of its way of life. That way was hardball on software; anything it decided was a core threat to Microsoft was sucked into the operating system.

These are Darwinian needs. Besides, Microsoft couldn't even save the universe in the movie "Independence Day." It took an Apple to do that.

The New York Times

## BOOKS

### KEATS

By Andrew Motion. Illustrated. 636 pages. \$35. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Reviewed by Christopher Lehmann-Haupt

THE evolution of John Keats's reputation has been nearly as momentous as his brief, tormented life. As Andrew Motion explains in his monumental and compelling new biography, Keats, after his death in 1821 at age 25, was quickly enshrined as "the archetype of the stricken Romantic: a supersensitive soul, brought to an early grave by the hostile reviewers of Blackwood's Magazine and the Quarterly Review."

Posterity only emphasized Keats's exotic qualities. The Pre-Raphaelites pictured him as "a delicious sybarite." Swinburne referred to him as the most "absolutely non-moral of all serious writers on record." Even as late as the 1940s, biographers were confirming the picture of Keats as "a beautiful wealing." Not until the 1960s did a different portrait of Keats emerge. Then three important biographies appeared: Aileen Ward's "John Keats: The Making of a Poet" (1963, revised 1968), Walter Jackson Bate's "John Keats" (1963) and Robert Gittings's "John Keats" (1968). "In different ways," Motion writes, "these books denied there had been anything irresolute about Keats' character, and gave an apparently comprehensive account of his daily doings."

Why then is Motion's biography needed? Most obviously, Keats's life is a great story, a triumph of artistic genius over every sort of adversity, worthy of being retold "at regular intervals," writes Motion, himself a poet and the author of "Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life." But more important, he argues, Keats's life has yet to be considered in the light of his interest in public affairs.

This may be inevitable. Motion concedes, given Keats's obsession with the beauty of truth and his hermitlike pursuit of it. All the same, Motion concludes, it is important to show that Keats's "efforts to crystallize moments of 'Truth' combine a social purpose with a poetic ambition, a social search with an esthetic ideal."

Unfortunately, even to whisper the word political in the context of Keats's art appears to be stretching a point. True, Motion provides valuable perspective by reminding us how Keats came of age during the Industrial Revolution and the Napoleonic wars, when England felt pressures for social reform from both within and without. And yes, early in his career Keats befriended the writer and editor Leigh Hunt and was published in Hunt's radical journal The Examiner, for which he paid dearly when Tory publications attacked Hunt and his associates.

But as Keats matured artistically, he dissociated himself from Hunt. It was hardly politically activist of Keats to say when he gave up his medical career that he intended to continue healing mankind with his poetry. Motion is eventually reduced to arguing, for instance, that when Keats wrote in "Endymion" "A thing of beauty is a joy forever," he was not merely identifying himself as "someone for whom sensuous pleasures exist without any kind of context."

Instead, for Keats "Beauty" is not an escape hut a medicine (promoting "a sleep/Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing"). Motion writes, "It is a general salvation rather than a way of arresting the destructive flow of time, but of criticizing corrupt power ('the inhuman death/Of noble natures, of the gloomy days/Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways/Made for our searching')." "If this is political, it is truly unacknowledged legislating, to paraphrase

Shelley's famous remark on the true role of poets. For all of Motion's valiant efforts to provide a social context for Keats's writing, what remains paramount in our awareness is the poet's subordination of everything to his ideal of beauty.

Where Motion is more effective is in unfolding the stages of Keats's development. These seem always to have involved the balancing of opposites in his poetry: happiness and suffering, possession and loss, awareness and oblivion, fruition and corruption. In one of his best critical analyses, Motion lays bare the frightening tension between life and death in "To Autumn."

Paramount among the contradictions in Keats's poetry was his ambivalence toward women, which goes far toward explaining the mystery of "La Belle Dame Sans Merci," and which finally became overt in Keats's dying agony over his beloved Fanny Brawne, although Motion is also effective in deconstructing the mythology connecting tuberculosis, creativity and love.

But what matters most is simply that Motion has found fresh reason for telling Keats's story. That reason may seem forced at times, and successful at dragging Keats only a little way back into the world of public affairs. We may also agree with the poet John Clare, Keats's contemporary, that the frequency of Keats's "classical accomplishment makes it wearisome to the reader where behind every rose bush he looks for a Venus and under every laurel hush a thrumming Apollo." But the power of Motion's narrative makes any excuse to retell Keats's story seem worthwhile. If he has taken away from us the image of Keats as the ethereal solipsist, he has made him all the more heroic as the archetypal artist persevering in spite of the world.

New York Times Service

## BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

A HAPPY event caused one of the New York area's top players to lose a title last month. Before the final event in the New York Winter Regional Championships at the end of December, Jared Lilienstein of Manhattan and Glenn Milgrim of Forest Hills, Queens, were tied for the lead in the New York Player of the Year Race.

The final event, a knockout teams, was significant since their position was not safe: Michael Polowan was in close pursuit and could snatch the title. But Lilienstein was not available because he and his wife were in the course of adopting a baby. To keep Polowan at bay Milgrim played, won points, and moved ahead of his partner. Polowan

stayed in third position, so Milgrim could have stayed home and allowed his partner to share in the glory.

Lilienstein and Milgrim have a finely tuned bidding partnership and demonstrated this sitting North and South on the diagrammed deal. Looking at the North-South hands it is easy to see that there is a bewildering array of slam possibilities. Six no-trump is easy, but seven no-trump depends on an even diamond split, as does seven diamonds. Seven spades is better, and succeeds because North is able, as the cards lie, to ruff the third round of diamonds before drawing trump. But the best contract by far is seven clubs, which comes home after a quick heart ruff unless the trumps break very badly.

Bidding to seven clubs is a

tough assignment, for it depends on knowledge of all the honor cards including the jacks. The two-diamond reid, which would be weak in standard methods, was an artificial game force. The later jump to four hearts was Kickback, a variety of Blackwood with diamonds provisionally agreed as the trump suit.

Five hearts asked about kings, and six diamonds denied having any. Now six hearts was a delicate invitation to select a slam. South worked out that his club jack was the crucial card in which his partner was interested, and bid seven clubs.

The trump lead was won in the dummy, and South led to the heart ace and ruffed a heart. He then drew trumps and claimed his grand slam.

for in the replay North-South reached six no-trump.

NORTH			
♠ A K J 4			
♥ 7			
♦ A K 6 4 3			
♣ A Q 8			
WEST			
♠ 6 2			
♥ A K 5 2			
♦ Q J 10 2			
♣ A 5 3			
EAST			
♠ 10 9 7 5			
♥ Q J 6			
♦ 10 8			
♣ 10 5 3 4			
SOUTH (D)			
♠ Q 8 3			
♥ A 8 4 3			
♦ Q 5			
♣ A J 7 2			

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♦	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
5♠	Pass	5♠	Pass
6♠	Pass	6♠	Pass
7♣	Pass	7♣	Pass

West led the club eight.

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## TribTech



The proposed site of a "multimedia university," part of the Multimedia Supercorridor project in Malaysia.

## A Hothouse of High-Tech Ideas?

Critics Say Malaysia's Rules Stifle Creativity of Software Developers

By Thomas Fuller  
International Herald Tribune

**K**UALA LUMPUR — A year ago, Darryl Carlton's software company worked out of the back room of someone else's office without any air-conditioning — a sure way to stifle creativity in the tropics.

Mr. Carlton financed the company from his own bank account, mortgaged his house twice and showered his four employees with promises of better times. If this evokes images of Silicon Valley's early days — computer geniuses working out of a garage — Malaysian officials would be flattered.

That is precisely the image the country wants to project: a hothouse of creative thinking, led by quirky Bill Gates-type visionaries.

Mr. Carlton, an Australian who moved to Kuala Lumpur 15 months ago, has 35 people working for him. And his company, Dadek Sdn. Bhd., has relocated to a bigger, Valley-esque office, replete with a basketball court, punching bag and high-speed fiber-optic links to the Internet.

But Dadek's success doesn't tell the whole story of Malaysia's vision for a home-grown Silicon Valley, a project known as the Multimedia Supercorridor.

The regional economic crisis has left its scars, and not only in the financial sector. Recent months have been cruel to the nation's free-flowing information in Malaysia. The government has pressured financial analysts not to talk with the press, admonished newspaper editors to run positive stories and, on Wednesday, threatened rumor mongers with the punishment of the internal security act: detention without trial.

It is an environment, critics say, that is more stifling than an office without air-conditioning, a threat to Malaysia's ambitious \$10 billion "supercorridor" dream.

"The question is whether we can create a culture of creativity — where you can let people have their hair down," says Lim Kit Siang, the opposition leader in Parliament and a two-time detainee under the internal security act. "The whole political culture has to change. If they're incapable of doing it for the economic crisis, it's legitimate to ask whether they're capable of doing it for the information age tomorrow."

The government has responded to such criticism by saying that the supercorridor, a top priority that officials assert is ahead of schedule despite the financial crisis, will be governed by different laws.

"Certain practices in the MSC will

defer from the rest of the country," Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad said earlier this week, referring to the supercorridor. "For example, they have absolute access to the Internet — no censorship of the Internet. Those working here will be able to come in and out without too much bother about getting visas every now and then."

But the statement Wednesday by a top official in the national police force, Ghazali Mohamed Amin, illustrated the situation elsewhere in Malaysia. Mr. Ghazali told the official Bernama news agency that "certain groups" were "fishing in troubled waters" by spreading rumors about the price rises in the country and the stability of the banking system. Mr. Ghazali listed three different acts that could be invoked against people who spread rumors, all of which involve jail terms.

Arthur Owen, a telecommunications consultant with Booz, Allen & Hamilton who has worked on supercorridor-related projects, said: "The idea of the corridor is to create a part of Malaysia where there will be freedom of information, copyright laws and an attractive, social and cultural environment."

"But it's not going to be sufficient just to make the infrastructural, legal and societal changes," he said. "It's going to be important also to change the perception of Malaysia in the minds of more creative, high-tech types."

**T**HE Multimedia Supercorridor gets its name in part from the shape of the strip of land chosen for the development. Starting from Kuala Lumpur, the zone is 15 kilometers (nine miles) wide and 50 kilometers long, an area larger than Singapore.

Malaysia is luring companies to the bucolic hills of the supercorridor with tax breaks and a "bill of guarantees" including liberal corporate ownership rules, intellectual property protection and the right of unlimited importation of foreign workers.

More than 100 companies have been granted supercorridor status so far, giving them the accompanying benefits.

## SITES

Related sites on the Internet:

• The Cyberjaya official home page is at: [www.mdc.com.my/infocenter/cyberjaya/index.html](http://www.mdc.com.my/infocenter/cyberjaya/index.html)

• The Dadek company's Web site is at: [www.dadek-my.com](http://www.dadek-my.com)

• An in-depth story on the Multimedia Supercorridor can be found at: [www.horwired.com/wired/5.08/malaysia.html](http://www.horwired.com/wired/5.08/malaysia.html)

But Mr. Carlton does not believe they have necessarily overcome the creativity issue.

"Most people who come to the MSC want to try to win Malaysian government contracts, and they use their MSC position in order to get tax breaks on Malaysian projects," Mr. Carlton said. "They're really cheating the MSC."

In fact, several supercorridor companies contacted for this article were reluctant to comment on the record on the issue of intellectual freedoms here, given the political environment.

**M**ALAYSIA is not the only country touting itself as an Asian hub for information technology. Singapore is luring companies with its Singapore ONE program, which aims to connect every household and business on the island with multimedia services.

And the southern Indian city of Bangalore offers a vast pool of programmers and computer specialists who can do "back office" work for companies in Europe and the United States.

Mr. Carlton said he chose Malaysia after "a very detailed study" of the region.

"The two most attractive countries to operate in were Singapore and Malaysia," he said. "The cost of setting up a business, running a business and personally living in Malaysia was much lower. That was the final deciding factor."

Construction of the physical infrastructure of the project — the high-capacity fiber-optic lines, roads and "multimedia university" campus — is still under way. Companies will start moving into the actual site of the supercorridor — and the central city of Cyberjaya — once the first phase of construction is completed at the end of this year.

But Mr. Carlton of Dadek — which sells inventory and customer service software — is not yet eager to move his offices there.

"My staff require other support facilities in order to keep them happy," he said. "Their requirements are very straightforward — restaurants, shops, entertainment, housing. Until those things are in place, it doesn't matter if the roads or the fiber optics are there to support the business. I won't be able to attract the kind of staff I need and I won't be able to maintain a creative working environment that will produce results."

Mr. Carlton also noted that Malaysian financial institutions had "no comprehension" of the value of intellectual property as collateral. "They don't understand that our production capacity is the talent and experience of our staff."

## Talking to Computers Is Coming of Age

Speech-Recognition Technology Brings a Rousing Cheer From Customers

By Dylan Loeb McClain  
New York Times Service

**W**hen Charles Schwab & Co., the brokerage company, decided late last year to switch to an automated phone system for taking customer calls, it put its trust in speech-recognition technology.

Schwab was skeptical at first because the technology, long hyped, had often proved disappointing. "We knew American Express had been playing with it for about 10 years and hadn't really been able to make a go of it," said Alan Nathan, head of new products.

After a pilot program drew favorable customer response, though, Schwab went ahead. In October, the system began handling calls in California, Oregon, Colorado and Washington, executing mutual fund trades and providing stock quotes.

"We thought if we could get this to do quotes, hallelujah," Mr. Nathan said. "We did not set out as an initial goal that we wanted to do trading. It was better than we expected."

Many businesses express similar sentiments. After decades of unfulfilled promises, speech-recognition technology may finally be coming of age, moving beyond directory assistance and primitive dictation software.

In the past year, breakthroughs in programming and faster computers have persuaded some companies to begin using it, while others are investing significant amounts of time and money testing it in the most grueling conditions, like on the trading floors of brokerage firms and exchanges.

Experts in the field caution that there is a long way to go. While speech recognition — recognizing the words, not

the speaker — has been widely available since AT&T Corp. started using it for its long-distance service almost a decade ago, the software will have to get better, and the hardware smaller and cheaper, before people start having conversations with their computers or their cars.

Still, the technology now appears robust enough to support large-scale development and business opportunities.

In September, Microsoft Corp. invested \$45 million in Lernout & Hauspie Speech Products NV, a Belgian company which develops and licenses a speech technology. Gaston Bastiaens, Lernout's chief executive, said the company was working with Microsoft to integrate the technology into Microsoft's operating systems.

International Business Machines Corp. has created a division with 200 employees to work on speech recognition. Its technology, called ViaVoice, has been licensed to such software developers as Edmark Corp. and Syracuse Language Systems, and sold to consumers as dictation software.

Lucent Technologies Inc. has developed a phone system that simply asks what you want, not asking you to choose

among various options. Within two months it promises a software kit for creating computer speech applications.

Ficomp Systems has developed a voice-controlled system for Bear Stearns & Co. that allows traders to record orders and check prices. The two companies signed an agreement last month under which Bear Stearns will market the system to its 2,000 independent brokers. Others are using or testing the system, including the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, which has tried it out in four of its trading pits over the last year.

Wildfire Communications Inc., a six-year-old company that has received financial backing from Microsoft and others, has created a personal electronic assistant that listens in on phone calls and becomes active when the user calls out its name.

Pacific Bell Mobile Services, a unit of SBC Communications Inc., has just signed an agreement to offer Wildfire's telephone assistant to its customers by the next three months.

This research and development is finding a receptive audience among businesses and consumers. Brian Lewis, editor of Speech Technology magazine, estimated that sales of speech-recognition technology totaled about \$500 million last year, a figure he predicted would double by 2001.

From a technological point of view, analysts cite two catalysts. One was the introduction of Intel Corp.'s Pentium chip in 1994, which finally gave personal computers enough processing power to run speech-recognition software quickly. The other was the introduction of a dictation program by Dragon Systems last June that was better at deciphering conversational speech.

## SITES

Related sites on the Internet:

• Information about IBM's ViaVoice can be found at:

[www.software.ibm.com/voice/vp/](http://www.software.ibm.com/voice/vp/)

• Details on Lucent Technologies phone systems are at: [www.lucent.com](http://www.lucent.com)

• Dragon Systems' home page is:

[www.dragonsys.com](http://www.dragonsys.com)

• Wildfire Communications is at:

[www.wildfire.com](http://www.wildfire.com)

## ALT / Commentary

## Interactivity Needs the Human Touch

By Douglas Rushkoff  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — I had an unsettling experience at a recent basketball game. My New York Knicks, though playing with injuries, had finally caught up with their Canadian opponents. It was one of those magic moments in sports where a sudden burst of enthusiasm by the home team had allowed it to overcome a tremendous deficit and take the lead. The visiting opponents called time out to regroup, and the home crowd went wild.

But then, the visiting players began to dance and rock hits of previous years began to play through the loudspeakers. The revitalized crowd clapped and shouted along. Then the giant scoreboard displayed the image of a digital decibel meter and urged us all to "get loud!"

Predictably, the fans cheered as the meter registered their increasing volume. The meter went up and up until it went off the scale and shattered into a blast of pixelated color.

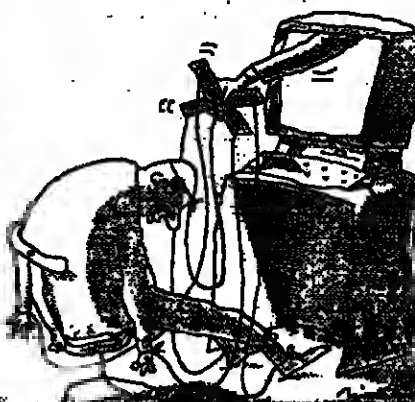
But, cynical nerd that I am, I noticed that the meter was not really registering anything at all. It did not rise and fall with the volume of the crowd. In fact, it was exactly the same meter that had been displayed the week before at a similar moment in the game, and it registered exactly the same sequence of peaks and valleys before exploding. The crowd's noise level had nothing at all to do with this recorded simulation of an interactive decibel meter.

As a temporary motivational device, the fake meter certainly worked. The arena did get loud, and fans cheered the team on. But even though I'm sure most of us will never know the difference, we were "had."

The reality of the technological experience — one that would not have been very difficult to do — was substituted for a crowd-pleasing simulation. To a techno-enthusiast like me, it was an insult.

I spent the rest of the game wondering just how many of our interactive experiences are truly interactive and how many, like the arena's decibel meter, are simply interactive style.

It didn't take long to find another example. In the seat next to me, a child played with a Tamagotchi virtual pet. I watched as he fed, played



with a "disciplined" tiny digital creature.

Surely this is interactive — at least in comparison with the prerecorded decibel meter. But is it? Who or what is the child really interacting with? A series of cues, programmed to meet the child's expectations. He feeds the pet, it smiles. He beats the pet, it cries.

The virtual pet, while simulating the training and rearing of a helpless space creature, is actually training its user. If you don't feed the pet at regular intervals, it dies.

The Tamagotchi and its many clones are training children to attend to technology at the expense of their human interactions. When these children are adults, I'm sure they will be fully conditioned to upgrade their computers at the first warning from the operating system.

The poor child next to me missed some of the game's most exciting plays while caring for his pet.

Interactivity does not mean interacting with a machine, however real it might feel. It means interacting with other human beings through machines.

A real decibel meter on the scoreboard would have allowed the assembled fans to participate in a mass spectacle. Together, we could have worked to peg a volume meter. We would not have been interacting with the device itself — rather, we would be interacting with one another through the device. Instead, we were trained to cheer by a machine.

Likewise, the Internet is slowly evolving from a community medium to a content-driven interactive archive — from telephone to catalogue or,

worse, advertisement.

This is because it's easier for businesses to sell us packaged content than to sell us to one another. But it's also because we've bought the notion that our computers have brought us into the Information Age and that we're now in the realm of bits instead of atoms.

We're not in an information age. We're in an interactive one. It's not bits we're exchanging, but our very essence in the form of ideas, e-mail, graphics and chat.

When I go on-line to engage in human interaction, I log off energized. When I search databases or shop in on-line malls, I leave the experience feeling drained and alone. This is because the former involves communicating with other living beings, while the latter concerns only machines and their information.

As companies attempt to make Web sites more "interactive," they are working to create simulations that drive and then meet our expectations. We are to reward them with purchases. Like a virtual pet, the sites click and whir, recognize our log-in and cater to our stated needs more accurately than a human being ever could. And if human beings could live on data, bits and consumption, this interactive-style Internet would truly be utopia.

I suggest that interaction with machines, however temporarily novel, will reveal itself as a poor substitute for using machines to interact with one another. We will tire of a bit-only Internet and, unless we engage in its living communities, we will instinctively reject its lifeless offerings.

The simulated noise meter fed no better. After a short burst of cheering, the crowd at the basketball game soon settled, and the Knicks eventually lost. I'd like to think that if they had used a real decibel meter, the outcome might have been different.

Douglas Rushkoff is an author and consultant on computer and "Generation X" issues.

ALT: The name of this column is meant to symbolize the "alt" key — alternative to the main keyboard — and suggest the "alternative" viewpoints expressed here.

## U.S. to Improve Its Eyes in the Sky

By Walter Pincus  
Washington Post Service

**W**ASHINGTON — A space shuttle mission scheduled for next year will collect data enabling U.S. intelligence analysts to produce extraordinarily detailed three-dimensional maps of 80 percent of the Earth's surface, according to a planning document by the National Imagery and Mapping Agency.

The shuttle flight is part of a massive modernization of the multibillion-dollar U.S. intelligence-collection program. The goal is to compile a comprehensive view of the world from overhead — using the shuttle, satellites, spy planes and missiles — and to consolidate the data in a single computerized system accessible to civilian and military officials across the government.

The program, which sources estimate will cost about \$10 billion over 10 years, is designed to deal with the flood of different types of intelligence data that for years has overwhelmed analysts. In addition to providing more detailed, complete and timely information, it aims to standardize access to information, which has been divided among more than a dozen military and intelligence agencies, many until recently using equipment incompatible with that of others.

Under the new system, said Lynn Ravach, spokesman for the mapping agency, "a receiver anywhere on Earth could request data and expect all the information to be sent to be compatible, whether it is imagery against troop movements, weather data, maps or video."

Officials say they envision a system five years from now capable of storing and delivering data for requests as diverse as those from U.S. troops abroad, State Department diplomats in Washington or

CIA analysts in South America.

Under the plan, data would be held on file at the mapping agency's central facility and at regional commands around the world. It would be made available in real time to Pentagon units, civilian agencies and authorized foreign customers, officials at the agency said. Standardized computers would be capable of holding and retrieving imagery from the preceding two years.

U.S. intelligence now produces an al-

most continuous stream of imagery from space from long-lasting KH-11 satellites and newer Keyhole and Lacrosse satellites, which use night vision and radar. With an average of almost 75 percent of the Earth covered by clouds at a given time, the ability of both radar and infrared technology to provide images in any weather has greatly increased the amount of data collected each day, said John Pike, a specialist with the Federation of American Scientists.

## BRIEFLY

• **AN ATM ON ICE:** MasterCard International Inc. and Wells Fargo & Co. have put an automated teller machine in McMurdo Station, Antarctica — the final continent to get easy access to cash.

MasterCard said the Antarctica Circuit ATM Network machine uses a satellite to send and receive the information that makes it work. Other ATMs use cable or telephone wires to transmit information.

Antarctica has a winter population of about 250 people and a summer population of about 1,000. More than 9,000 tourists visit during its summer season of October to February, MasterCard said.

• **SET-TOP BY SATELLITE:** Satellite broadcasters will control about 65 percent of the European digital TV market by 2002, according to a report released last week by the management consultant Datamonitor.

The report said that the number of installed digital set-top boxes that receive satellite services will rise to 8.55 million in 2002 versus 1.44 million ter-

restrial set-top boxes, while the total digital base is expected to total 13.4 million.

Those figures compared with an estimated 2.77 million satellite set-top boxes this year out of a total base of 2.60 million, Datamonitor said. (Reuters)

• **TOUCH-TONE FLYING:** American Express and Continental Airlines are having several thousand business fliers test a new "smart card" embedded with personal preferences and other information.

After inserting it in an equally smart Continental card reader, which has a touch screen and prompts, travelers can switch to an earlier or later flight, upgrade to first class if they are Gold Elite-level members, change seat assignments, confirm One Pass numbers for mileage credits and obtain boarding passes and receipts. (NYT)

• **TELEKOM LOSES FAITH(S):** Germany's main Catholic and Protestant churches have lost faith in Deutsche Telekom AG and will sign up for telephone services worth around 850 mil-

lion Deutsche marks (\$463.6 million) a year with a rival company, officials said.

The contract was signed by O.Tel, the phone venture of the utilities VEB AG and RWE AG, and the Catholic Conference of Bishops and the EKD Protestant Church in Germany.

It covers telephone service at some 100,000 church office locations around the country and will save the churches more than 100 million Deutsche marks a year.

But Deutsche Telekom has said it will make a new offer to win back the customers. "We will not give up any customer without a fight," a Telekom spokesman said. (Reuters)

• **LIFE AFTER APPLE:** Gilbert Amelio, the former Apple Computer Inc. chairman who was ousted last summer, has joined the Parkside Group investment firm, which was formed last April, as a partner.

The former chief of National Semiconductor Corp. will focus on management-friendly buyouts of companies with proven technology. (Reuters)

## TECHNOLOGY INDEX

A glance at technology stock indexes around the world

North America	Tuesday close	% change previous week	% change year to date
Pacific Stock Exchange Technology	294.87	+2.93	+1.48
Standard & Poor's Technology Composite	722.21	+2.49	+3.18
Europe			
Morgan Stanley Eurotech	404.53	+6.71	+5.02
Asia			
Topix Electric	1737.76	+6.82	+5.69

Source: Morgan Stanley, Bloomberg News

For technology articles from the past week, see the Technology Index on the IHT's World Wide Web site at <http://www.ihf.com>. Articles include:

- Microsoft and Judge Spar Over Order, Jan. 16
- Seoul to Slow High-Speed Train Project, Jan. 17-18
- Revamping, Seagate Plans 10,000 Job Cuts, Jan. 17-18
- A Day Off for Final Year 2000 Problems? Jan. 19
- Big Computer Companies Pull the Plug on Free Support, Jan. 19
- A Technical Standard, or a Muzzle? Jan. 20
- Kingston Chiefs Give Softbank a Big Break Jan. 20
- Sending Web Pages Faster, Jan. 20
- PC Titans Hook Up With Phone Firms, Jan. 21

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International Herald Tribune



# Asia Can't Do It Alone, Rubin Says

## U.S. and IMF 'Critical' To Region's Stability

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Treasury secretary, Robert Rubin, said Wednesday that U.S. financing for the International Monetary Fund was key to upholding confidence in Asia, and called it "critical" that Congress agree to provide more funding.

He also warned that financial instability could threaten the South Korean government.

The United States "cannot afford to stand back and gamble that the crisis will resolve itself," he said, or that financial markets resolve the situation on their own.

He said Asian nations would undergo deeper recessions and weaker currencies if not for the IMF rescue packages that are being negotiated.

The IMF "is the right institution" to be at the center of the reform programs, he told students and faculty at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He said U.S. assistance remained a second line of defense, to be used only "if a country fully adheres to the reform program and further resources become necessary." He added that no direct U.S. aid had been disbursed so far.

The IMF put together bailout packages of about \$40 billion for Indonesia, \$60 billion for South Korea and \$17 billion for Thailand. Last week, IMF and U.S. Treasury officials traveled to all three countries to assess the progress made in reforming their financial systems.

"When we act to resolve the Asian crisis, we act to protect and benefit the American people," Mr. Rubin said. "If the crisis were to spread more broadly to other emerging markets, then the impact on American workers and business could be much greater."

He said that so far, the economic problems in Asia were having only a moderate impact on the U.S. economy.

"Strong efforts to re-establish financial stability in Asia and reform measures in many of the developing countries elsewhere have succeeded in limiting the contagion effects after the initial impact," Mr. Rubin said.

Along with the national economic interest in seeing Asia recover, Mr. Rubin said, the United States also has "critical national security interests" in financial stability in the region. There are 100,000 U.S. troops in Asia, including 37,000 on the Korean peninsula.

"History has shown that economic distress and financial instability can threaten political stability and security," Mr. Rubin said.

Soon still must deliver on promises to open its economy in return for early payment of \$8 billion in emergency credit from the IMF and the United States, he said.

A group of banks led by J.P. Morgan, Citicorp and Chase Manhattan are working with the South Korean government on a plan to refinance as much as \$25 billion in short-term debt.

"We stated the U.S. would provide funds only in the context of international banks addressing Korea's immediate financing needs," Mr. Rubin said.

While analysts say declining demand from the Asian economies will knock about half a percentage point off U.S. growth this year, Mr. Rubin said the effects should be "relatively moderate" and the "most likely scenario" for 1998 was continued solid growth and low inflation in the United States.

Mr. Rubin added that the markets alone could not resolve Asia's problems, saying that most of the pressure on Asian currencies came from local sources, not foreign investors.

Any aid to the region must be tied to a program of economic reforms, Mr. Rubin said. "If countries don't take these steps, no financial assistance is made available," he said.

Although the reforms sought are not austerity programs, he said some fiscal and monetary tightening would be needed to restore confidence in the region's economy.

(Bloomberg, Bridge News)



Edzard Reuter, Daimler's former chairman, seeks in his memoirs to defend the company's costly expansion.

# Daimler's Ex-Chairman Settles Scores

By John Schmid  
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Agonizing in his memoirs over his role in what many consider modern Germany's most ill-fated corporate expansion, Daimler-Benz AG's former chairman, Edzard Reuter, reminds himself that "the only thing that counts is that you can look in the mirror in good conscience."

Mr. Reuter's 480-page autobiography, "Schein und Wirklichkeit, or 'Appearance and Reality,'" which is to reach German bookstores next month just ahead of his 70th birthday, amounts to the first full-length rebuttal from the man whose eight-year chairmanship of Germany's biggest company made him the biggest "destroyer of capital in German history," in the words of a 1995 charge made by Ekkehard Wenger, a shareholders-rights advocate.

A copy of the book was obtained by the International Herald Tribune in advance of publication. Mr. Reuter was not available for comment.

Just as he did when he was chairman, in the book Mr. Reuter rejects the view that it was his expansion strategy and "vision of an integrated technology concern" that led Daimler-Benz into financial disaster. In many cases, the retired chief executive faults his fellow managers for their inability or unwillingness to carry out his plans.

"Not the conception, not the vision was wrong; it had much more to do with a somewhat defective execution by the respective management," Mr. Reuter writes.

"Up to the point of my departure, I myself certainly never saw any reason to turn the rudder fundamentally around and to depart from the designated route," he says elsewhere in the book.

In a general rumination on the people he has met and worked with, Mr. Reuter looks back at his life and concludes, "You admittedly have few remaining doubts that the overwhelming majority of people are born to be misled."

Juergen Schrempf, Mr. Reuter's successor, gets his share of the blame for the company's record 5.7 billion Deutsche mark (\$3.1 billion) loss in 1995. Much of the loss stemmed from restructuring charges and severance payments for the company's aerospace operations, "for which Juergen E. Schrempf bore the direct leadership responsibility since they were founded," Mr. Reuter says.

A spokesman for Daimler-Benz declined to comment on the book. The book's publisher said Mr. Reuter would not give interviews until after the book went on sale.

The book could become a reference text for investors who want a better understanding of an expansionist buying spree that the magazine Der Spiegel once called "the big pig-out."

The book is set to appear as a negative publicity over its diversification into subcompact cars, a segment below the company's trademark luxury sedans. Daimler delayed the launch of two new lines of cars, the A-class and the "Smart" car, after both tipped over on tight budgets, presenting a risk to the company's reputation.

As chairman, Mr. Reuter writes, he supported the new line of cars, but he also warned of the potential risks to the company's prestige. In the case of the Smart car, made by Daimler in a joint venture with Societe Suisse Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie SA, the maker of the Swatch watch, Mr. Reuter warned that failure could damage Mercedes' reputation and "could risk our entire passenger-car program."

See DAIMLER, Page 15

# Q & A / Dennis de Tray

# Jakarta Challenge: Restarting Business

As Indonesia's rupiah dropped to a record low in Jakarta of 12,000 to the U.S. dollar on Wednesday, Dennis de Tray, a World Bank representative in Jakarta, discussed the impact of the currency and corporate debt crisis on the world's fourth most populous country with Michael Richardson of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. Aren't many Indonesian companies that have borrowed extensively off-balance sheet bankrupt with the dollar at 12,000 rupiah? Aren't many Indonesian banks also in financial trouble?

A. The Indonesia economy is close to paralysis because there is no functioning financial system any longer. That is a very dangerous situation.

When the offshore cost of your debt has risen four or five times in terms of your domestic currency, it takes an extraordinarily strong balance sheet to weather that kind of storm.

I think that most Indonesian companies that hold any substantial offshore debt would find it very difficult, if not impossible, to pay it off at rates of exchange of 10,000 rupiah or 12,000 rupiah to the dollar. I am sure that offshore lenders realize that at the current exchange rate there is no way the debt can be serviced to any degree.

Q. Won't foreign creditor banks have to accept some responsibility and accept losses on their loans to the private sector, which total \$65 billion, of which \$20 billion is to be repaid this year?

A. I certainly believe that it's reasonable to argue that the Indonesian people should not be saddled with the debt burden that was created by highly paid corporate executives who were either making loans they apparently should not have made or borrowing too much money.

Q. Why is the rupiah still falling despite last week's agreement between President Suharto and the International



Dennis de Tray of the World Bank.

Monetary Fund to reform the economy?

A. I expected the package to give a major boost to confidence in Indonesia and in the president's commitment to reform, and that this would have a stabilizing effect on the rupiah.

The fact that it has had quite the opposite effect suggests one of three possible explanations: the package is missing something critical; the world at large and Indonesia believe the president is not going to implement it; or that something else is driving the lack of confidence.

On the first two possibilities, I think we can handle them. A new package will be announced very shortly on banking-sector reform. Within 10 days, another package will be announced to deal with Indonesia's debt overhang.

Q. What kind of debt rollover and debt management program will be in place to reassure the markets?

A. The package will probably involve offshore lenders, Indonesian companies and maybe the international community in some way. It is really the complete collapse of the rupiah that has moved this essentially private corporate debt problem into the realm of public policy.

Q. In the case of South Korea, wasn't arranging a rollover of short-term debt and then putting in place the outline of a longer-term refinancing program relatively easy because the creditor banks were dealing with a small number of South Korean banks?

A. Indonesia's external debt problem is unique. There are well over 200 companies that have substantial off-balance sheet liabilities. There are also a large number of offshore lenders from South Korea, Japan, Europe and the United States. Bringing all these players to the table in some kind of orderly fashion is clearly a major challenge.

Q. Are you confident that a workable negotiating framework can be arranged?

A. It must be arranged. Indonesia is a large country. It can produce goods at the competitive prices it needs to get back into business. It is in the interests of debtors and creditors alike to move as quickly as possible to come up with a solution that gives breathing space to the corporate and financial sectors so that the economy can begin to function again.

# Asian Turmoil Brings New Fears for Profits

## TI and IBM Cite Reduced Demand in Region

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — International Business Machines Corp., Texas Instruments Inc. and other technology companies have sounded an alarm over Asia, saying that the region's economic crisis has already cut into profits and is likely to limit growth for some time to come.

The warnings sent a shudder through the U.S. stock market, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down 78.72 points Wednesday to close at 7,794.40. IBM finished down 8 1/4 at 100.

A large company like IBM tells you what the direct impact of Asia on sales is, and it hits you like a very blunt object," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment officer at First Albany. "The market tried to put Asia behind it last week, but we are now reminded it's going to be a long time before Asia is behind us."

IBM said late Tuesday that its first-quarter profit would be dragged down by slack consumer demand in Asia and the strong dollar. The forecast came as the computer maker reported a 3.4 percent increase in fourth-quarter profit, slightly less than Wall Street forecasts, amid lackluster sales of personal computers and other hardware.

On Wednesday, Texas Instruments Inc. posted a loss of \$285 million for the fourth quarter, compared with a loss of \$29 million a year earlier. While a one-time charge of \$461 million contributed greatly to the loss, the company also said lower chip prices and weaker Asian demand also dented earnings. Revenue slipped to \$2.43 billion from \$2.46 billion a year earlier, and TI said orders had also dropped during the quarter.

Nevertheless, the company's shares rose 1 1/16 to 48 1/16 as investors concentrated on TI's forecast for a 10 percent increase in the global semiconductor market this year.

The weak results were not confined to U.S. technology giants. SGS-Thomson Microelectronics BV said Wednesday that fourth-quarter profit declined 11 percent because of falling semiconductor prices amid worldwide overcapacity, a situation the French-Italian joint venture said could be prolonged because of the Asian economic slowdown.

SGS-Thomson, Europe's No. 2 semiconductor maker after Philips Electronics NV of the Netherlands, earned \$126.3 million, down from \$142 million a year earlier.

"The worry is that the slowdown in Asia has consequences in stronger geographies," said Chad Fleischman, a portfolio manager at Columbia Management Co. "The whole state of information-technology demand has clearly decelerated. You can see it in networking, you can see it in hardware, you can see it in software."

Computer Associates finished down 4 1/4 at 47 1/4 after the software maker's results included weaker sales than analysts were hoping for, partly because of slow overseas demand.

There were some bright spots on the technology front. Compaq Computer Corp.'s fourth-quarter profit rose 37 percent, to \$667 million. Sales at the world's biggest maker of personal computers rose 23 percent, more than twice the industry average, to \$7.32 billion, buoyed by PCs priced under \$1,000. Compaq closed up 2 1/4 at 32. The company said it expected to gain market share and generate higher profit this year even with the turmoil in Asia.

But the specter of lower profits pulled down the overall stock market. J.P. Morgan added to the fears about the Asian crisis, having warned Tuesday that the turmoil would affect its earnings, and on Wednesday the banking company's stock closed down 4 at 10 1/4.

"Investors must be prepared for more short-term earnings disappointments," said Ed Haldebrand of Cooke & Bieler in Philadelphia.

Losing issues led gainers by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange. The Standard & Poor's 500-stock index finished down 7.82 points at 970.78.

The stock market's weakness sent investors back to the security of Treasury bonds. The price of the benchmark 30-year issue rose 19/32 point, to 104 17/32, sending the yield down to 5.80 percent from 5.84 percent Tuesday.

"The flow of funds from stocks is the dominant trade now," said Tad Rivelle, a fund manager at Metropolitan West Asset Management.

Bond prices have climbed since late October as Asian markets have tumbled, sending investors to U.S. government debt, which is perceived as less risky than investments elsewhere. The yield on the 30-year issue fell to 5.66 percent Jan. 12, the lowest since the government began regular sales of the bonds more than 20 years ago.

"The situation in Asia is unpredictable enough that we may get more scary news," said Henry Willmore, a senior economist at Barclays Capital Inc.

(AP, Bloomberg, Reuters)

# Big Charge Spells Loss For Boeing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEATTLE — Boeing Co. said Wednesday it would report a loss for the fourth quarter and all of 1997 after taking a \$1.4 billion charge related to its acquisition of McDonnell Douglas Corp.

The annual loss will be the first for the world's biggest aerospace company since 1959.

Analysts welcomed the move, saying it would help pare Boeing's costs.

"Investors will and should be encouraged by the way this is being handled," said Cai von Rumohr, an analyst with Cowen & Co., who has a "strong buy" recommendation on the stock. "They are coming to grips with the costs."

Boeing's shares rose 50 cents to close at \$44.

The charge represents an inventory write-down after Boeing's decision to discontinue the MD-80 and MD-90 jetliners made by McDonnell Douglas, a company spokesman said.

"Everybody understood that once we made a decision on the future of the Douglas aircraft line there would be costs associated with doing that," the spokesman said.

Boeing purchased McDonnell Douglas for \$16.3 billion on Aug. 1, forming a military and commercial aerospace company with \$48 billion in annual revenue. Boeing said it made the decision to write down the assets after it completed the purchase of McDonnell.

In addition to the McDonnell Douglas charge, Boeing said it plans to take a fourth-quarter charge related to production inefficiencies that have plagued the company for the past five months. The effect of the moves on employment will be announced later, after the company decides whether to consolidate facilities, Mr. McCracken said.

Boeing said it was assessing ways to cut costs further in all areas.

(AP, Bloomberg)

# WALL STREET WATCH

# Publicity's Stock Rises on Wall Street

By David Barboza  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A few months ago, the streets around the New York Stock Exchange were cordoned off so that Gap Inc. could set up a huge Sony Jumbotron television set to show commercials from its new marketing campaign.

Traffic was also blocked when a candy-shaped "Kissmobile" delivering Hershey's Kisses drove onto Wall Street and parked outside the exchange last year as part of a celebration marking the 90th anniversary of the chocolate candies.

Then there was the time Planet Hollywood International Inc. made its listing debut on the Big Board. Whoopi Goldberg was whooping it up on the messy trading floor as Bruce Willis and Demi Moore cheered it up with Richard Grasso, chairman of the exchange.

Mr. Grasso, who is more at home with harried traders yelling things like "Bid an eighth, ask a quarter!" seemed altogether pleased to play host to a few Hollywood celebrities. He was not at all surprised that they showed up. In fact, he has come to expect such fanfare in the financial district.

In the last few years — in no small part because of Mr. Grasso's orchestration — Wall Street has become an increasingly popular marketing backdrop for movie stars, fashion designers, corporate chiefs and even live animals.

Arianna the cow showed up last year when Gateway 2000 Inc., the South Dakota computer company, began trading shares in New York. (A cowbell opened trading on the exchange that morning.) And just two weeks ago, Bestfoods Inc., formerly known as CPC International Inc., celebrated its name change by running live bulls down a gated stretch of Wall Street.

Though a news release said a herd of bulls would "thunder past" the exchange, the bulls actually trotted unenthusiastically behind a group of costumed characters portraying a bottle of Hellmann's mayonnaise, an Entenmann's cookie and a jar of Skippy peanut butter, all Bestfoods products.

Still, call it a bull market in corporate publicity stunts. And where better to pump up the corporate muscle than in the capital of all financial capitals — Wall Street, U.S.A.?

"The coverage of Wall Street has become an obsession in America," said Lawrence Rand, a partner at Kekst & Co., a public-relations company that represents Gap. "Virtually every single day, CNN is showing the opening of Wall Street around the world, and if you can get your picture to a viewership around the world for paying nothing, why not?"

# CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Jan. 21

Cross Rates

	Jan. 21	Jan. 20	Jan. 19	Jan. 18	Jan. 17	Jan. 16	Jan. 15	Jan. 14	Jan. 13
Australian \$	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35	1.35
British pound	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
Canadian \$	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70
French franc	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55	6.55
German mark	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36
Italian lira	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936	1,936
Japanese yen	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5	106.5
Netherlands guilder	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20
New Zealand dollar	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65
Portuguese escudo	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48	200.48
Spanish peseta	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64
Swedish krona	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46	8.46
Swiss franc	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48
Taiwan dollar	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6	24.6
Thai baht	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7	50.7
U.S. dollar	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
U.S. dollar (100)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
U.S. dollar (1,000)	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
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U.S. dollar (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00
U.S. dollar (10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000)	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00	10,000,000,						











NYSE

**Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close**  
The 2,600 most traded stocks of the day.  
Nasdaq prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere.  
The Associated Press.

High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100 High Low Last Chg

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High Low Stock Div Yld PE 100 High Low Last Chg

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ASIA/PACIFIC

# Kim Vows to End Investment Barriers in South Korea

By Don Kirk  
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — President-elect Kim Dae Jung met with executives of foreign multinational companies Wednesday and vowed that South Korea would cut through its maze of regulations and end investment and import barriers as the nation puts its derailed economy back on track.

"You may have difficulties because of investment regulations and inconsistent policy," Mr. Kim told the presidents of the 25 of the highest for-

sign companies represented here. "We can work together to make the environment acceptable so investors can freely invest in our country."

Mr. Kim sought to encourage of ten critical foreign investors as his top aides began talks in New York with international creditors aimed at refinancing more than \$25 billion in short-term debt, an agreement South Korean banks need to remove the threat of default.

Jitters about the outcome of the meeting pushed the stock market lower Wednesday. The Seoul exchange fell 5 percent, or 26.89 points, to 506.66, after having risen steadily all month. At the same time, the value of the won fell sharply for the second consecutive day with the dollar closing at 1,723 won compared with 1,639 won Tuesday.

Members of the South Korean negotiating team in New York said they opposed a proposal to cover 60 percent of the debt with government bonds — and would also hold out for interest rates far lower than the 12 percent to 13 percent demanded by the American banks.

As Mr. Kim was trying to reassure foreign executives, Samsung Group said it would shed subsidiaries and that its chairman, Lee Kun Hee, would invest \$78.1 million in personal assets to help his companies. However, Samsung left unclear whether it would abandon Mr. Lee's pet project, Samsung Motor Co., which has already produced its first prototype cars. Mr. Lee has been widely criticized for oversteering South Korea's already overcrowded motor-vehicle industry.

Attending the meeting with President-elect Kim, according to participants, were executives from Coca-Cola Co., Motorola Inc., Citibank NA, Philip Morris Cos., Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, BASF AG, Mitsui Corp., Mitsubishi Corp., Societe Generale SA and Credit Lyonnais SA.

"It was a starting point," said James Tesseda, president of Ford Motor Co. of Korea. "He was saying the right things. He was recognizing the issues and the problems."

[The Ministry of Construction

and Transportation said Wednesday that South Korea planned to ease regulations on foreign purchases of real estate in a bid to promote investment, Bloomberg News reported.

[Foreign companies owned 0.02 percent of South Korea's real estate as of September.]

Mr. Kim repeated his criticism of South Korea's conglomerates, or *chaebol*, after meeting the foreign executives, saying that he was reflecting "the concerns of the people who doubt the sincerity of the chaebol's will to reform themselves."

Samsung, South Korea's second-largest *chaebol* in terms of assets, issued a promise of restructuring on Wednesday that was not likely to satisfy Mr. Kim's desire for specifics, though Samsung's chairman, Mr. Lee, promised to sell 128 billion won (\$78.1 million) of personal property, and invest it in cash-strapped subsidiaries.

Samsung said Mr. Lee would also invest 90 percent of his annual income of 8 billion to 10 billion won in an employee welfare fund as long as the country was under the International Monetary Fund-sanctioned program and would donate 10 billion won from his savings and shareholdings to a fund to help retrain employees.

Mr. Lee's promise to dig into his personal fortune followed similar pledges by the families who own the Hyundai and LG groups.

Samsung also promised transparency of corporate accounts, including consolidated financial statements as demanded by the IMF, and to abolish cross-debt-payment guarantees, under which companies within a group guarantee each other's debts.

## Help More, Lee Urges Washington

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BANGKOK — Lee Kuan Yew, the elder statesman of Singapore, said Wednesday that the United States and Japan would suffer costly consequences if they ignored Asia's economic crisis and failed to offer help throughout the region.

"Both the U.S. and Japan have significant national security and economic interests in a stable, prosperous Asia," the former prime minister said in a speech at the Thai National Defense College. "This crisis will not be confined to Asia if it continues to fester."

Washington must, for its own economic interest, extend help beyond South Korea to Thailand and Indonesia, he said.

Mr. Lee also called on Tokyo to do more to help revive economies in East Asia.

"Japan is the principal source of capital around the world," he said. "If its banks continue to languish, loans and investments will continue to shrink."

Mr. Lee described the Asian economic turmoil as a typhoon that no one had expected. But he said the region's economies could recover in two to three years if countries pressed ahead with long-term reforms.

He said governments must adopt reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund, tighten their regulatory systems and reduce corruption among political and business leaders.

Mr. Lee also said each country must allow companies and banks that are insolvent or not viable to go bankrupt, while governments should step in and strengthen solvent banks.

"The cost of solving these problems will be high," he said. "However, the cost of failing to deal with them decisively will be more painful."

Mr. Lee blamed the economic turmoil on both domestic companies and lax governments in Asia, as well as international banks and money managers who were eager to lend to the region during prosperous times but panicked when the markets began to slide.

"Governments were to blame for failing to check excessive borrowing," he said. "Lending was based not on feasibility of the projects but on personal relations or cronyism."

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

## Hint of Stimulus Extends Tokyo Rally

By Sheryl WuDunn  
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Japanese stocks rose Wednesday for the sixth day in a row, their longest rally in two years, and the yen rose on hopes that Japan might finally take bolder steps to turn around its ailing economy.

The new gains came a day after Koichi Kato, secretary-general of the Liberal Democratic Party, hinted that the government might delay its program of fiscal austerity. This could mean an extended tax cut or an increase in government spending.

There has been growing pressure on the government to stimulate the economy lest Japan's slowdown imperil all of Asia and eventually the global economy. Japanese news agencies reported Wednesday that President Bill Clinton telephoned Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Jan. 13 to urge him to take steps to expand the Japanese economy.

The main obstacle to any attempt by Mr. Hashimoto to stimulate the economy has been the fiscal austerity program, which aims at curbing budget deficits. Mr. Kato's suggestion that fiscal austerity may be postponed could have been an attempt to test the market's reaction.

On Tuesday, Mr. Kato told a group of editorial writers from leading Japanese newspapers, "The basic policy of reform must be maintained, but we must cope with it in an accommodative manner and postpone it to some extent if the situation does not improve."

But on Wednesday, he seemed to backtrack slightly.

"We will not alter the basic policy of our fiscal reform," Kyodo News Service quoted him as saying. "I believe we will be able to manage to attain our target by the deadline even if we act flexibly over spending."

The Nikkei Stock Average rose 1.9 percent, to 16,684.42. It has risen 2,019.98 points, or 14 percent, over the last six trading days.

"There's a hope that they will finally produce something — a rabbit out of a hat — over the next couple of months," said Russell Jones, chief economist for Asia at Lehman Brothers Japan Inc. But he added, "Some of the optimism building may be a bit misplaced. It's by no means certain that the market has bottomed out."

Fiscal austerity was the main reason Japan raised taxes last year instead of cutting them or raising public spending as many economists had urged. Mr. Kato's comment may reflect the government's desperation over economic stagnation and fears that it will be blamed for any global economic downturn. Moreover, there are still risks that Japan will be hurt by the Asian financial crisis.

Masaru Takagi, chief economist at Fuji Research Institute, said: "The situation is still highly fluid in such countries as Korea and Indonesia, which could have a ripple effect on Japan. It would be far on illusory to think that Japan has emerged safely from the crisis."


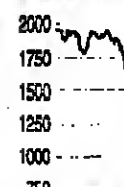
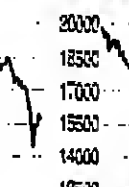
The Finance Ministry said Wednesday that unemployment was still high, the economy was at a standstill and overall corporate earnings were likely to decline for the year ending March 31.

In most parts of Japan, people are clamoring for the government to spend more money, Makiko Tanaka, a member of Parliament, said Wednesday. "People are asking for a bridge in their area, or a dam, or they want more money for welfare," Mrs. Tanaka said. "Because of the credit crunch, they can't get private loans to buy equipment, so they want help in getting public loans."

She criticized government policy as contradictory in trying to embark simultaneously on large-scale deregulation and fiscal austerity.

"What the government is doing," Mrs. Tanaka said, "is pressing the accelerator and the brake at the same time."

## Investor's Asia

Hong Kong Hang Seng		Singapore Straits Times		Tokyo Nikkei 225	
					
17000 15000 13000 11000 9000 7000		2000 1750 1500 1250 1000 750		2000 1500 1000 1500 1400 1250	
A S O N D J 1997 1998		A S O N D J 1997 1998		A S O N D J 1997 1998	
Exchange	Index	Wednesday Close	Prev. Close	% Change	
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	9,246.80	9,433.70	-1.98	
Singapore	Straits Times	1,811.40	1,296.91	+1.12	
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,622.80	2,639.40	-0.63	
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	16,684.42	16,366.53	+1.94	
Kuala Lumpur	Composite	590.55	585.35	+0.89	
Bangkok	SET	432.86	413.79	+4.61	
Seoul	Composite Index	506.66	533.55	-5.04	
Taipei	Stock Market Index	6,098.65	7,907.68	+2.41	
Manila	PSE	1,755.27	1,773.86	-1.05	
Jakarta	Composite Index	466.00	448.04	+4.01	
Wellington	NZSE-40	2,254.14	2,257.45	-0.15	
Bombay	Sensitive Index	3,418.34	3,455.95	-1.09	

## Very briefly:

- Malaysia will fully compensate Ekran Bhd. and other holders of the Bakun dam, the Finance Ministry said, adding that work would continue on parts of the project, which was put on hold last year because of the economic crisis.
- The Philippines is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund over at least \$2.7 billion in standby credits to cover fallout from the regional crisis. Manila is also negotiating for a separate credit from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.
- The Stock Exchange of Thailand will appoint internal auditors for all companies that apply to list shares, in an effort to ensure accurate earnings reports.
- The Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna, made up of Australia, Japan and New Zealand, failed in two days of talks to determine the future of an international management group on the endangered fish.
- News Corp.'s shares surged 51 Australian cents to a record 9.41 dollars (\$6.27) after an analyst said global revenue from its movie "Titanic" might exceed \$800 million.
- Cambodia's new investment rules give corporate tax exemptions of as long as eight years and 100 percent import-duty exemptions on construction materials and equipment.
- China created a bank to finance a 1.66 billion yuan (\$2 billion) rail line between Shanxi and Hebei provinces, the Xinhua news agency reported.

## DAIMLER: Ex-Chairman Settles Scores

Continued from Page 11

In many ways, Mr. Reuter appears far more complex, and sometimes more humble and lonely, in his book than he did as the larger-than-life architect of Daimler's expansion in the 1980s, which Mr. Schrepp rapidly dismantled with a brutal wave of divestitures, plant closures and job losses after Mr. Reuter left the job in May 1995.

By the end of his chairmanship, Mr. Reuter concedes, he was "branded a loser." The men who once supported him loyally either died during his tenure or gradually withdrew their support, sometimes secretly.

In the narrative, he switches into a dialogue with himself, addressing himself in the familiar "du" for "you." He confesses to moments of self-doubt: "Looking back on what you just wrote about your thoughts and actions, it seems logical to you and thus convincing. But is it the whole truth? Do you perhaps forget things?"

He wonders whether he had been "enticed" by the company's "hidden reserves" of several billion marks, which remained concealed from the curious eyes of outsiders.

The book also can be seen as a case study of the affluence of pre-unification West Germany and the era in which Mr. Reuter launched his vision — before unification forced Germany into an unfamiliar austerity. "The Germans above all had become a sated, indeed a fat, folk," he says.

The company's expansion program began with a 1984 proposal by Mr. Reuter in which he argued that the "generation of our children and grandchildren" deserved a company that could grow beyond traditional automobile operations.

At first hailed as a visionary, Mr. Reuter rapidly recast the luxury sedan-maker into a conglomerate that made heavy cables, refrigerators and washing machines, satellites, typewriters, big and small airplanes, helicopters, microchips, trains, military equipment, turbine engines, automated postal sorting machinery and even household electricity meters.

"The idea behind it was neither dreamy nor theoretical," he said of the expansion. In selectively naming the managers who disappointed him, Mr. Reuter risks reopening one of the darkest chapters in Daimler's postwar history. Mr. Reuter is repeatedly critical of Gerhard Liener, his chief financial officer, who committed suicide in December 1995, only a few months after excerpts from Mr. Liener's diaries, which contained bitter references to Mr. Reuter, were published in a magazine.

Particularly upsetting for Mr. Reuter was Mr. Liener's drive to get the company's shares listed on the New York Stock Exchange. As the first German company to accept U.S. accounting standards, Daimler-Benz was forced in the middle of 1993 to open its books and reveal that it was posting a loss for the first time in its history.

"This step was the work of Gerhard Liener," Mr. Reuter writes.

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NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 P.M.  
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities  
in terms of dollar volume, updated twice a year.  
The Associated Press.

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
IBM	100 1/4	+1/4	1,234,567
MSFT	34 3/4	+1/4	987,654
GOOG	275 1/2	+1 1/2	456,789
AMZN	45 1/4	+1/4	321,098
APPL	112 1/4	+1/4	210,987
ORCL	56 1/4	+1/4	198,765
INTC	23 1/4	+1/4	187,654
QCOM	78 1/4	+1/4	176,543
TXN	67 1/4	+1/4	165,432
WMT	48 1/4	+1/4	154,321

Symbol	Price	Change	Volume
DIS	29 1/4	+1/4	143,210
BA	54 1/4	+1/4	132,109
GE	38 1/4	+1/4	121,098
MS	26 1/4	+1/4	110,987
CVX	42 1/4	+1/4	109,876
PG	35 1/4	+1/4	98,765
KO	28 1/4	+1/4	87,654
LLY	72 1/4	+1/4	76,543
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JPM	27 1/4	+1/4	32,109
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NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close  
(Continued)

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**WORLD ROUNDUP**

**Stoudamire Deal:  
Bound for Houston?**

**BASKETBALL** The Toronto Raptors' star guard, Damon Stoudamire, will be traded to the Houston Rockets in a six-player deal, the ESPN cable network reported Wednesday.

The network, citing no sources, said the Rockets would also receive a forward, Walt Williams, and a center, Zan Tabak, in exchange for center Kevin Willis, guards Mario Elie and Matt Maloney and Houston's No. 1 draft pick in 1998.

At Toronto's morning practice, Stoudamire, the 1996 rookie of the year, refused to discuss a possible deal.

Stoudamire has become one of the top young point guards in the NBA, averaging 19.1 points and 8.5 assists a game. But he has been unhappy in Toronto, wanting to play for a contender. The Raptors (6-33) have the second-worst record in the NBA, trailing only Denver.

The 24-year-old guard is in the last year of his rookie contract and earns \$1.7 million a year. (AP)

**Denny McLain Indicted**

**BASEBALL** Denny McLain, the last 30-game winner in the major leagues, was indicted Wednesday on racketeering charges.

McLain, a two-time Cy Young Award winner for the Detroit Tigers in the 1960s, was among 40 defendants named when four federal indictments were unsealed. He was charged with conspiring in telephone calling-card fraud.

McLain won the Cy Young in 1968 and shared it with Mike Cuellar in 1969. He won 31 games in 1968 and 24 games the following year.

The 54-year-old McLain is already in prison, serving eight years for loaning pension funds. Before that, he served time for drug and racketeering convictions. (AP)

**Pills Are Discovered  
At Swimmers' Motel**

**SWIMMING** Australian police said Wednesday that they had found a small quantity of unidentified pills and other substances in a motel room that housed part of the Chinese team at the recent world swimming championships.

The pills were discovered during a room check by the police early on Monday. A total of 27 empty glass vials were also found about 12 hours earlier in a common toilet area accessible to all guests at the motel.

The Western Australian police superintendent, David Parkinson, said that international swimming's governing body, FINA, had not said whether it wanted the pills, vials and substances analyzed.

He said the substances were being stored in the police department's drug unit until a decision was made on whether to perform an analysis.

FINA said last week that it was powerless to expel the Chinese team from the world championships even though four of the team's swimmers failed pre-competition doping tests. (Reuters)

**Cancer Claims Gilbert**

**GOLF** Larry Gilbert, a three-time winner on the U.S. Senior PGA Tour who was diagnosed with inoperable lung cancer last September, died Wednesday. He was 55.

The 1997 Senior Players Championship winner was diagnosed Sept. 2 during a routine physical.

Gilbert was one of four senior-tour members diagnosed with cancer in 1997. Arnold Palmer and Jim Colbert had prostate surgery, and Bruce Devlin had his right kidney removed. Gilbert was the only one of the four whose condition could not be treated.

Gilbert was a teaching pro who won the PGA of America Club Pro Championship three times before joining the Senior PGA Tour in 1993. He had won \$902,816 as a senior player in 1997 before his illness. (AP)

**Goalkeeper Is Sidelined**

**SOCCER** David Seaman, the goalkeeper for England's national team and for the Arsenal premier-league club, has cracked a bone in his finger and will be out of action for three weeks, Arsenal said Wednesday. Alexander Manninger is expected to take Seaman's place in the FA Cup fourth-round tie against first-division Middlesbrough on Saturday. (Reuters)

**Lynagh Will Call It Quits**

**RUGBY UNION** Michael Lynagh, international rugby's record point scorer, will retire from the game in May, the end of the English season.

The Australian flyhalf, 34, said Wednesday that the decision to retire after 15 years at the top had not been an easy one. "Rugby has given me more than I could ever hope to give back. However, there comes a time in any career when it is time to move on." (Reuters)

**Venus Wins Battle of the Sisters**

*In Williams vs. Williams, Age, Experience and Rank Prevail*

By Robin Finn  
New York Times Service

MELBOURNE — Their beads fell from their Technicolor crowns and littered the stadium floor. It was proof that meeting your sister in the second round of your first visit to the Australian Open is an unraveling experience, even for the poised and powerful Williams sisters, who have joint designs on the No. 1 ranking now owned by yet another overachieving teenager, Martina Hingis.

On Wednesday, there were fears that the rank newcomer, 16-year-old Serena, might wreak havoc on the already complicated family pecking order and defeat 17-year-old, 16th-ranked Venus — making good on the prediction by their father, Richard, that the younger Williams was destined to be the greater champion of the two.

But after a heated beginning in which neither sister gave ground, Serena deferred to her elder and allowed Venus Williams, who made her own Grand Slam breakthrough when she reached the final of the U.S. Open last summer, to advance into the third round of this one with a 7-6 (7-4), 6-1 victory.

"Serena, I'm sorry I had to take you out," the winner told the loser. "Serena

hates to lose, and her reputation is she never loses to anyone twice."

Venus is now 2-0 against her less-experienced sibling, and wary of their next encounter, which she hopes will happen in a final.

"I see us as the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds, interchangeable," Venus said. "Today would have been great fun if it were a

**THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN**

final, but it wasn't so fun to eliminate my little sister in the second round."

Serena Williams has made a rankings leap from 304th to the low 40s since announcing herself as the next big threat to the establishment with upsets of Monica Seles and Mary Pierce last November, an upset of the second-ranked Lindsay Davenport last week and a significant Grand Slam debut here when she defeated the sixth-seeded Irina Spirlea in the opening round.

"If I had to lose in the second round, no better than to Venus," Serena said. "I tried to keep thinking of her as someone else, but I guess Venus has a little more experience than me."

Serena Williams said this was a match that held no fear factor for her, and in the opening set she was her own

worst enemy. She compromised herself from the service line with seven double faults and blasted a forehand wide of the sideline at set point. She had a lead throughout the tiebreaker until Venus scooted in front, 5-4, thanks to a backhand blunder from the youngest but burliest Williams.

Both sisters were more proficient with their returns than with their serves in the first set, when they shared eight service breaks in 12 games. But in the second set, Serena was the sister who cracked first.

By the time Venus had sprinted ahead to a 3-0 lead, Serena had summoned a trainer to tape the sore right knee that hampered her campaign last week in Sydney, where she avoided a potential final-round clash with her sibling by bowing to the eventual champion, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, in the semi-final round.

"Serena is a great player, and even though she hasn't played that much, she's been taking people out left and right," Venus said.

"Seeing her across the net was a little bit odd, but it's to be expected, and in the future it'll be the same."

In other matches Wednesday, The Associated Press reported:

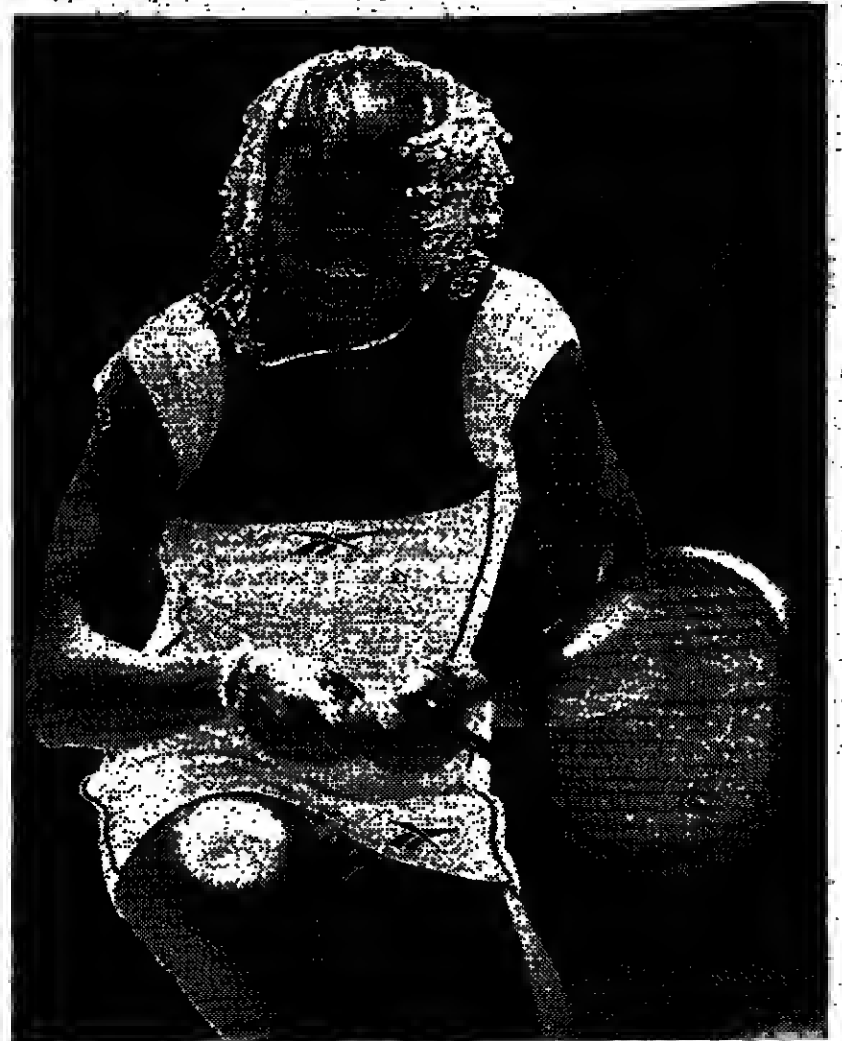
Mirjana Lucic, who at 15 represents another in the wave of the future in women's tennis, also failed to advance against a more experienced opponent — No. 04 seed Iva Majoli, the French Open champion.

In a slugfest with her Croatian compatriot, Lucic frequently overhit, losing by 7-5, 6-4. Ranked 47th, Lucic committed 49 unforced errors to Majoli's 29. She also failed to cash in on break points that could have kept her in contention — three in the first set's final game and two in the last game of the match.

Lucic, in her first Grand Slam, reached the third round of the U.S. Open last year.

No. 2 Lindsay Davenport came back from 3-5 in the third set, saved one match point with a govt serve, and beat Slovak player Karina Habsudova, 2-6, 6-0, 9-7.

In other women's matches, No. 8 Conchita Martinez won, 7-5, 6-2, over Dutch player Miriam Oremans; No. 9 Sandrine Testud defeated Germany's Jana Kandarr, 6-7 (6-8), 6-0, 6-1; No. 13 Lisa Raymond, who also was down by



Venus Williams hitting a backhand during her second-round victory.

3-5 in the third, overcame Japan's Nana Miyagi, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5, and No. 15 Roxandra Dragomir beat Spain's Magui Serna, 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 6-3.

In men's matches, Pete Sampras, the defending champion, needed just 70 minutes to advance to the third round with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Davide Sanguinetti, an Italian ranked 94th.

"For the first two matches, I feel like I'm playing well," he said.

Sampras's opponent in last year's final, Carlos Moya, went out, 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7-2), 6-4, to the Australian Richard Fromberg, who said, "It's the biggest win I've had in a Grand Slam tournament."

Last year, it was Moya's turn for big victories. Emerging from anonymity, the Spaniard upset Boris Becker in the first round and kept winning until he

met Pete Sampras in the championship match.

But except for that tournament, Moya, who was seeded seventh this year, never has gone past the second round of a Grand Slam event.

One of Australia's higher hopes for a good finish in its own Open, No. 15 Mark Philippoussis, fell, 1-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1, 9-7, to Morocco's Hicham Arzi, who saved one match point at 4-5 in the final set and topped the big server in aces, 21-19.

No. 4 Jonas Bjorkman had to come from two sets down to beat the South African Wayne Ferreira, 6-7 (3-7), 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3; No. 6 Petr Korda breezed to a 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-3 victory over yet another Australian, Scott Draper, and No. 11 Alex Corretja trounced Germany's David Prinosil, 6-4, 6-3, 6-0.



Pete Sampras concentrating while beating Italy's Davide Sanguinetti.

**Rangers Beat the Blues**

*Outshot, New York Makes Most of Its Chances*

The Associated Press

A well-rested Mike Richter dazzled, a rejuvenated Brian Leach scored and New York made the most of the power play as the Rangers defeated the St. Louis Blues, 3-1, at Madison Square Garden.

The underachieving Rangers, now 6-4 in their last 10 games, still looked shaky in the first two periods Tuesday

**NHL ROUNDOUP**

night, giving up 28 shots to the Blues while getting only 17 themselves. But they made the most of the latter to score on all three of their power plays, while Richter, sharp in his first start since Jan. 3, took care of almost all of the former.

New York got three key players back from injuries — defenseman Jeff Beukeboom and Ulf Samuelsson, and center Brian Skrudland.

Penguins 0, Senators 0 In Pittsburgh, Tom Barraso stopped 35 shots, and Ottawa's Damien Rhodes made 23 saves as the Penguins and Senators played the NHL's fifth 0-0 tie this season.

Barraso's sixth shutout of the season tied the club record set by Les Binkley in 1967-68, the Penguins' first season.

Flames 3, Sabres 0 In Philadelphia, Rod Brind'Amour celebrated the birth of his first child with two goals, and Ron Hextall got his fourth shutout of the season as the Flyers beat Buffalo.

Brind'Amour, whose wife, Kelle, gave birth to a daughter on Sunday, has six goals in his last six games. Hextall made 29 saves for the Flyers, who have lost only one of their last eight (5-1-2).

Devils 3, Red Wings 1 Scott Niedermayer set up late third-period goals by Jason Arnott and Dave An-

dreychuk to lead New Jersey to home over Detroit.

Rookie defenseman Sheldon Souray also scored as New Jersey took advantage of seven power-play chances to outshoot the Red Wings 36-17 in a game that was scoreless until the third period.

The only reason the game was tied that long was the Detroit goaltender, Chris Osgood, who stopped 25 shots in the first two periods.

Blackhawks 5, Islanders 2 In Chicago, Steve Duhinsky scored a short-handed goal and set up one by Gary Suter as the Blackhawks defeated the mistake-prone New Yorkers.

Tooy Amonte, Eric Daze and Dmitri Nabokov added goals for the Blackhawks, who have won four of their last five games and are 9-3-3 since Dec. 17.

Kings 4, Flames 3 Vladimir Tsyplakov scored the tying goal with 1:37 left in the third period, then got the game-winner with 16 seconds remaining for Los Angeles. It was the Kings' first victory in eight home games against Calgary.

Luc Robitaille and Rob Blake scored 37 seconds apart to start the Kings' four-goal burst in the final period. Jozef Stempel had three assists for Los Angeles.

Erik Andersson's first NHL goal put the Flames ahead 3-2 with 6:38 left in the third period. German Tirov scored twice for Calgary.

Oilers 6, Coyotes 2 Defenseman Boris Mirovov had a goal and three assists as Edmonton downed visiting Phoenix for its sixth straight victory.

Ryan Smyth, the Oilers' second-leading scorer, had his left knee injured and will be out of action for six to eight weeks. He was hurt when hit in the first period by Rick Tocchet, who received a major penalty.



Darius Kasparaitis of the Penguins sailing past the puck as he fights to keep Ottawa's Shawn McEachern from getting it in front of the goal.

**Forget Fate, Elway Says, Score Big**

By Bill Pennington  
New York Times Service

SAN DIEGO — The question to Denver quarterback John Elway was simple but hardly innocent. "Do you," the three-time Super Bowl loser was asked, "believe in fate?"

Elway, who is uncomfortable as the sentimental favorite in Super Bowl XXXII on Sunday, neither paused or smiled.

"I believe," he answered, "in first downs and touchdowns. I believe in a 40-point halftime lead."

John Elway, 37 years old, gray at the temples, with a football player's limp and a torn hipcap tendon withering in his throwing shoulder, has not stopped dreaming big.

This week, as he revisits the event that has defined and depreciated a sparkling career, he wonders — as does nearly everyone else — if this will be the year he will be liberated from a heartless fate of Super Bowl defeat after Super Bowl defeat after Super Bowl defeat.

"The Super Bowl is the ultimate game," Elway said Tuesday. "And it is the ultimate loss. As it must be to win one of them and it erases everything else you've done. You are a Super Bowl-winning quarterback. Every once in a while it's that other club."

Eleven years after his first Super Bowl appearance, Elway said he had hoped to be considered many things as a

football player as his career neared its end, but to be a sympathetic figure was not one of them.

"I guess that's flattering," he said. "But it's embarrassing, too."

Elway is a 15-year veteran, an elder in a league in which the average career is slightly more than five seasons. He has developed a thoughtful, reflective perspective on the Super Bowl, and he talks about it almost as a historian would.

"The Super Bowl is distinctive among the major sports champion-



ships," he said. "It is approximately three and one-half hours of play to settle a season. No other major sport does it with just a one-game final in the middle of a Sunday every winter. And if you lose, what happens is you go from feeling like you're the second-best team in the league to feeling like you're the worst team in the league."

Elway, of course, has suffered through this circumstance three times, losing to the New York Giants, 39-20, in 1987; to the Washington Redskins the following season, 42-10, and to the San Francisco 49ers, 55-10, in 1990. Against the Giants and the Redskins, Elway's Broncos led at halftime.

"The one that hurt the most was the Redskins," Elway said.

In the first half of that game, he threw a touchdown pass on Denver's first play from scrimmage. Elway then became the first quarterback in Super Bowl history to catch a pass, which led to a Broncos field goal and a 10-0 lead.

"We came out in the second half and the roof caved in," he said, summarizing a string of Denver turnovers and misplays. "By the 19th play of the second half, all of a sudden we had no chance to win."

"We had gone from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. That game took the longest to get over."

In general, Elway said, he rarely lingers over other recollections of his Super Bowl experiences. "Time has healed the wounds," he said. "And now I'm proud of getting to three Super Bowls. I don't consider those seasons failures."

But when asked if he would trade his 50,000-plus passing yards, his 3,913 pass completions, his record 138 National Football League victories as a starting quarterback or all the other statistics of a Hall of Fame career for a Super Bowl victory, Elway was unequivocal. "In a heartbeat," he said.

His dazzling career postseason statistics include 4,150 yards passing in 17 games. But his Super Bowl failures (6 interceptions, 12 sacks and a 46 percent completion rate in three games) present ample opportunity for stinging, demeaning criticism. "You hear it all when you lose and you have to take it," he said.

**Gilbert Brown Weighs In for Green Bay**

By Dave Anderson  
New York Times Service

SAN DIEGO — His size-24 neck is wider than his head. He wears a size-64 jacket. The "Big Dog" tattoo on his right hip is almost as big as some dogs.

Gilbert Brown is listed at 345 pounds (155 kilograms) but whenever the Green Bay Packers' 6-foot-2-inch (1.88 meters) oose tackle was asked what he really weighed, he had the same answer with the same feigned smirk.

"Next question," he said.

He reportedly weighed 351 early last week, but some people think he might be 375. Tom Nalen, the Denver Broncos' center who is listed at 285, talked about giving away 100 pounds in trying to block him Sunday in Super Bowl XXXII.

"You can't move the guy," Nalen said. "He's so low and so strong. There's no one quite like him."

Maybe no one in National Football League history. In this era of 300-pound linemen, both offensive and defensive, Nate Newton, Larry Allen and Erik Williams of the Cowboys are big, and William (Refrigerator) Perry of the Bears was big a decade ago, but Gilbert Brown might be the biggest of the big. And nobody enjoys being big more than he does.

"The only time I wished I was smaller was in the second grade," he said. "I sat on the chair and broke it."

Everybody in the classroom laughed at him that day. But nobody's laughing at him now. And when he was asked how much he had weighed in the second grade, he feigned that smirk.

"Next question," he said.

During the season and the playoffs Brown didn't talk much to reporters, but at the Super Bowl he is required to accommodate the assembled notebooks, microphones and cameras. So he stood in a booth Tuesday wearing his green-and-gold uniform, a green-and-gold cap, a thin goatee and that feigned smirk at questions he didn't want to answer.

"It's a \$10,000 fine if I'm not here," he said. "I'm here."

He knows about money. He spurned Jacksonville's three-year, \$9 million offer and re-signed with the reigning Super Bowl champions for \$8.1 million. But he insisted, "It wasn't a hard decision." He likes it in Green Bay, and Green Bay likes him.

"I'm fat and round," he said, "and a lot of people like soft, squishy things."

In the Burger King restaurant not far from Lambeau Field, and only there, they sell the Gilbert Burger. "Two patties, extra cheese, sliced tomato, a little

lettuce, onions, mustard, ketchup, a ton of mayo — cut it in half and there you go," he said. "If you don't cut it in half, it'll be all down your arm."

What will you do after football? "I'd like to be a cook. I'm good with pepper steak and fried chicken, but I'd be in the wrong profession because I'd eat all the food."

Have you ever been on a diet? "Next question."

To Brown, playing oose tackle, usually against a double-team, involves "a lot of studying, a lot of time in the weight room, a lot of time in the cardio room." It pays off. His nickname is The Gravedigger. "Because I dig a lot of graves out there," he said.

But at Brown's weight, some people wonder if he is not digging an early grave for himself; his father died at age 48 in 1992, a year before the Vikings drafted Brown out of the University of Kansas. When the Vikings cut him, the Packers claimed him, but Coach Mike Holmgren worries about his nose tackle's health.

"He's never going to be a little guy and he's never going to be able to lose a lot of weight," Holmgren said. "He gives you everything he can possibly give you on the football field. His teammates love him. He's a good football player. He's very quick for a guy that size, but I worry about his career."



SPORTS

# Nuggets Lose Again

## Denver Barrels Toward a New NBA Record

The Associated Press  
The Denver Nuggets lost again, making it 21 straight. The biggest question now is these: Will the Nuggets break the NBA record of 23 consecutive losses in one season? Will they ever win again?

The Nuggets are almost at their midpoint of their season with a 2-36 record that is the most dreadful the league has seen in years. Their latest loss, 88-77 on

### NBA Roundup

Tuesday night in Vancouver, was most stunning because it was so decisive, despite coming against a Grizzlies team that entered the game on a 13-game skid of its own.

The Nuggets are within two losses of tying Vancouver's single-season record of 23 consecutive defeats set two years ago. The Cleveland Cavaliers lost 24 straight at the end of the 1981-82 season and the start of 1982-83.

The Nuggets, starting three rookies, unraveled at the start of the third quarter Tuesday night when they missed seven of their first eight shots and gave up a 16-5 run to fall behind 66-47. By the time the quarter was over, the Nuggets trailed, 73-54. Denver pulled within seven in the final quarter but got no closer.

Mavericks 107, SuperSonics 98 In Dallas, Erick Strickland had a career-high 30 points, and Michael Finley scored 29 as the Mavericks shocked Seattle for the second time this season.

A 7-0 run made it 99-86 with 3:49 to play, but Seattle made a last push and cut the Dallas lead to 102-96 with 38 seconds left before Strickland converted a layup, and Khalid Reeves added a free throw with 18 seconds left for a 105-96 lead.

Trail Blazers 85, Cavaliers 84 Kenny Anderson hit a 20-foot jumper at the final horn to win the game for the visiting Blazers.

Suns 87, Warriors 88 Rex Chapman scored 22 points, and Danny Manning had 16, including 14 in the second half, as Phoenix sent host Golden State to its

11th straight loss. Jason Kidd added 13 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, leaving him just shy of his 18th career triple-double.

Antonio McDyess added 12 points for the Suns, who have won their last six meetings against the Warriors.

Hawks 103, Bucks 93 In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock had 15 points, eight assists and five steals in 44 minutes in his return from the injured list, and the Hawks came back from a 15-point, first-half deficit.

Atlanta had seven players in double figures, led by reserve Alan Henderson with 18 points. Dikembe Mutombo scored 16, Christian Laettner 15, Chucky Brown 12 and Eldridge Recasner and Steve Smith 11 each.

### Webber Faces April Trial

Chris Webber has been released from police custody on his own recognizance and ordered to appear in a Maryland court on April 2 for trial on assault charges.

After a routine traffic stop for speeding, the Washington Wizards forward was arrested Tuesday and charged with assault, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, driving under the influence of marijuana and five other traffic-related violations.

All the charges are misdemeanors. The assault charge alone carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

"We look forward to having the matter tried," said Webber's lawyer, Bruce Marcus.

Webber was driving a sport-utility vehicle when he was stopped at about 9:30 A.M. on a four-lane highway in Landover, Maryland, on the way to a 10 A.M. practice at the MCI Center in downtown Washington.

The police report said Webber did not have a license or registration and offered his credit card as proof of identification. The report said Webber was "slow to answer" questions, and struck the hand of the policeman when the officer went to open the car door.



The Nuggets' Tony Battie dunking over the Grizzlies' Sam Mack.

"The officer attempted to remove him," a police spokesman said. "He resisted, an assault occurred," after which the officer gave Webber a dose of pepper spray to expedite the arrest.

Webber was handcuffed and taken to the police station. The car was impounded and searched, and officers found the

stub of a marijuana cigarette and ashes in the front center ash tray. They also found traces of marijuana leaves, stems and seeds on the rear of the floorboard on the driver's side.

A team spokesman said Webber would play in Wednesday night's home game against Portland.

# A Team Old Ballplayers Can Turn To When in Need

By Ira Berkow  
New York Times Staff Writer

NEW YORK — "Gentlemen," or "Dear Sir," the letters begin, and then the stories of needy people pour out: One must have a prostate operation but can't afford it, another has a wife who needs a double mastectomy and hip replacement, another is on the verge of suicide.

And there are phone calls: "Joe, this is embarrassing because I don't like to ask for help, but..." and then one after another tells the improbable stories, improbable because most of the callers were major league ballplayers, American heroes or icons, basking in glory for a game, for a season, for a decade.

Joe Garagiola, known widely as a funny man, and the author, in fact, of the long-ago book "Baseball Is a Funny Game," listens. "We'll do what we can," he says. "We'll try to help."

And he begins the process of coming to the rescue of these people, who have discovered that life may not be such a funny game. In an age of multimillion-dollar contracts, it seems hard to imagine that stars of the past are reduced to this state. But some never made a great deal of money, or spent it just that way.

Garagiola, the onetime major league baseball player, sportscaster and star of the "Today" show, is the former president and still the guiding light of the Baseball Assistance Team, or BAT, an organization devoted to helping people once associated with professional baseball who are down on their luck.

The group held its seventh annual awards dinner Tuesday night, and, as usual, former ballplayers like Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams and Bob Gibson and even the relatively reclusive Sandy Koufax attended. They were present because they believe in the cause — which has raised several million dollars over the last 11 years for the unfortunate former players and their families — and they were present because of the persuasion and urging of Garagiola.

Baldish, garrulous, still a quipster ("I went through life as the 'player to be named later'"), Garagiola unabashedly uses his celebrity, his wit, his compassion to do good. He is Sister Brown of the Salvation Army, with a baseball cap.

I remember one afternoon during spring training in Florida two years ago when Garagiola was accompanied by a man whose face was badly deformed on one side. He had gone through numerous operations for cancer. The man was Bill Tuttle, a standout center fielder for the Detroit Tigers in the 1950s. Tuttle had reluctantly come to BAT and Garagiola when the cost of the operations mounted, operations that were needed because of the cancer that had developed from his years of chewing tobacco.

The dangers of chewing, a longtime habit of ballplayers, were of grave importance to Garagiola, and he was going from camp to camp to speak with players as a group in each clubhouse, with Tuttle and Tuttle's wife relating their heart-breaking tale. "Come on, you guys are invited, too," he said to reporters. "Everyone should know about this."

There was no profit in this for Garagiola, other than for his heart and soul. Garagiola will not give the names of those who have sought help unless the player consents, as did Bernie Carbo, the onetime Red Sox outfielder who got hooked on alcohol and drugs.

"I look back and I get chills," Carbo once said. "I see a grave at the bottom of a hill with a skeleton in it reaching out and that skeleton is me saying, 'Come back, come back.'"

Another thank-you letter arrived after the organization had sent a check to cover expenses for the funeral of a man's wife. "He thought everybody had forgotten him," Garagiola said.

"My pride and self-confidence have completely disappeared," wrote a one-time catcher, whom BAT soon helped. "I stay in the house almost every day."

Another who needed help, Garagiola said, played in a 1970s World Series and finished his career in 1987. "Those who we help are not all old timers," he said. "They are getting younger."

## SCOREBOARD

### BASKETBALL

#### NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
ATLANTIC DIVISION			
Atlanta	24	1	68
New York	22	16	57
New Jersey	22	17	56
Washington	21	20	51
Orlando	18	21	48
Boston	17	21	47
Philadelphia	13	23	36
CENTRAL DIVISION			
Indiana	26	11	70
Chicago	26	12	60
Atlanta	26	13	57
Charlotte	22	16	59
Cleveland	22	16	57
Detroit	18	20	47
Minnesota	18	21	45
Toronto	6	33	15
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
PACIFIC DIVISION			
Seattle	32	9	78
Los Angeles	26	12	64
Phoenix	25	12	61
Portland	22	16	57
Sacramento	17	21	45
LA Clippers	10	31	24
Golden State	7	30	19
NORTHWEST DIVISION			
Utah	26	12	64
San Antonio	27	13	65
Minnesota	22	16	57
Houston	18	20	47
Vancouver	11	30	16
Dallas	22	17	59
Denver	2	30	13

### HOCKEY

#### NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
ATLANTIC DIVISION			
Montreal	26	12	64
Quebec	26	13	61
Ottawa	22	16	57
Carolina	17	21	45
Florida	10	31	24
CENTRAL DIVISION			
St. Louis	26	12	64
Chicago	26	13	61
Minnesota	22	16	57
Philadelphia	17	21	45
Pittsburgh	10	31	24
WESTERN CONFERENCE			
PACIFIC DIVISION			
Edmonton	26	12	64
Calgary	26	13	61
Vancouver	22	16	57
San Jose	17	21	45
Los Angeles	10	31	24
NORTHWEST DIVISION			
Seattle	26	12	64
San Jose	26	13	61
Calgary	22	16	57
Edmonton	17	21	45
Vancouver	10	31	24

### CRICKET

#### WORLD SERIES

AUSTRALIA VS. NEW ZEALAND	
1st Test: Australia 251-4 (50 overs) vs. New Zealand 233-6 (50 overs)	Result: New Zealand won by four wickets.
TENNIS	
AUSTRALIAN OPEN	
1st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. David Ralston (USA)	Result: Agassi won.
2nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
3rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
4th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
5th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
6th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
7th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
8th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
9th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
10th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
11th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
12th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
13th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
14th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
15th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
16th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
17th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
18th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
19th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
20th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
21st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
22nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
23rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
24th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
25th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
26th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
27th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
28th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
29th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
30th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
31st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
32nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
33rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
34th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
35th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
36th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
37th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
38th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
39th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
40th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
41st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
42nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
43rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
44th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
45th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
46th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
47th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
48th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
49th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
50th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
51st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
52nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
53rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
54th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
55th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
56th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
57th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
58th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
59th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
60th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
61st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
62nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
63rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
64th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
65th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
66th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
67th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
68th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
69th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
70th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
71st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
72nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
73rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
74th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
75th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
76th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
77th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
78th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
79th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
80th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
81st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
82nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
83rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
84th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
85th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
86th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
87th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
88th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
89th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
90th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
91st Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
92nd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
93rd Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
94th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
95th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
96th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
97th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
98th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
99th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.
100th Round: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 vs. Andre Kuznetsov (Russia)	Result: Agassi won.

### TRANSITIONS

#### BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE	
Baltimore Orioles	26-12-64
California Angels	26-13-6



## POSTCARD

## The Vodka Revolution

By William Grimes  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — While the world was preoccupied with Dolly the sheep, a team of scientists quietly introduced banana flavor into vodka. And it poses the same moral question as human cloning: Just because scientists can do it, must they?

Lemon and pepper, flashy newcomers in the late 1980s, paved the way for black currant, cranberry and orange. Recently, their ranks were joined by pineapple, melon and tangerine.

Stolichnaya, in an all-out effort, introduced six vodkas laced with raspberry, strawberry, peach, vanilla, cinnamon and coffee. Zoni, an Italian company, added banana and other fruits. A Russian rival, Kremlovskaya, is pleased to offer, for your delectation, a chocolate vodka.

The new flavors have divided bartenders more than any drink trend in recent memory. Traditionalists regard them as the worst thing since Pagan Pink. Hip experimentalists say they are thrilled. In the confused middle are bartenders who love some flavors and hate others — although not the same flavors.

Most agree, however, that a successful flavor seeps into the vodka, dying its colorless fabric and creating a unified taste experience. It should not sit on top of the vodka like a bad toupee.

Cosmopolitan cocktails soak up most of the flavored vodka being poured, as bartenders brighten up the vodka, lime-juice and cranberry recipe by introducing lemon, orange, black currant or other flavored vodkas, which have also transformed the basic

vodka martini. Shooters, or chilled shots of straight spirit, also account for a large percentage of the flavored vodka being consumed.

Out on the conceptual frontier, that twilight zone where raspberry and black currant intermingle, where vanilla vodka forges an unholy alliance with creme de cacao, new cocktails are emerging like planets from a swirling, gaseous cloud. Behold them.

At the Time Cafe in Greenwich Village, the Billie Holiday combines Stolichnaya and blue curacao with cranberry, pineapple and lime juice to make an indigo statement. It's attractively tart and, appropriately, a touch mysterious. Where does the cranberry begin? Hard to say, fun to figure out. This one's a winner.

The Grand Bar at the Soho Grand Hotel serves a cheeky, cherry-red spinoff of the martini, the Tartini. A blend of Stolichnaya, Chambord raspberry liqueur and cranberry juice, it uncannily replicates the flavor of a melted Luden's cough drop and seems to go like gangbusters with youngish patrons.

For those who want dessert in a glass, the Mon Cheri martini at Osteria del Circo in midtown may one day provide the alcoholic equivalent of the Twinkie defense. Equal parts Absolut Vodka and Godiva Black Chocolate liqueur, it's pure sugar rush.

Do these drinks deserve to live? Andrea Immer, the beverage director at Windows on the World and the Rainbow Room, says no.

"Vodka is a good neutral vehicle for flavors, but very few companies have the chemists' talent to get the flavors right," she said. "Besides, how many people want to be drinking cinnamon?"

By Mike Zwerin  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In the upscale Brussels neighborhood of Uccle, the neighbors know Mal Waldron as the elderly, distinguished gentleman who walks his young twins to school, looking like some august African ambassador.

The liner notes on his new album "Soul Eyes" (BMG) describe him: "He takes the train. He talks, nods and waves to neighbors and shopkeepers. He laughs a lot and likes to tell jokes. Few people here know that tomorrow Monsieur Waldron will fly out to Japan to play the piano."

One thing, he sure knows how to juggle existential metaphors. He moved to Brussels after more than 20 years in Munich because "nobody stands on the corner waiting for the lights to change. In Germany they watch the lights instead of the cars. The lights never killed anybody."

He likes living in Brussels because "they don't care what language you speak" (he speaks English, German, Japanese and French). And he does not plan to move back to the United States because "they won't let me smoke over there."

He and his Japanese wife rent the eight apartments they own to Japanese businessmen. They rent a large apartment for themselves and their five children.

As a child in the borough of Queens in New York, Waldron's classical piano teacher would shout "stop it!" as though in pain when he made up his own variations to sonatas: "It's not legal," the teacher said. "You're breaking the rules." When he grew older, Waldron understood that in jazz, on the contrary, playing something the same way twice was "illegal," and he thought, "This is more like it."

Waldron accompanied Billie Holiday for the last few years of her life, and he has also played with Charles Mingus and John

Coltrane. Ask him about Holiday and he mimics a microphone being shoved down his throat and says he's sorry. "But I've been asked that too many times. I've stopped answering it. That was so long ago. I don't want to be in the past. I look forward, I don't look back. If you look back while you're moving forward you'll trip." A body-shaking laugh brings tears to his eyes.

These days Waldron prefers to play songs he doesn't know with people he has never played with so that the music will be full of surprises. He looks for that sudden change when you think you're on familiar ground and then you find yourself in an unfamiliar place.

Surprise "keep you young. Peace and quiet," he adds, "means you're dead."

He is convinced that had Holiday stayed in Europe instead of going back to New York after their last tour together in 1958 she would not have died so soon. When he returned to live in Munich shortly thereafter, it had less to do with racism or artistic respect than just plain survival.

Most of the musicians he knew in New York had been suffering from alienation-induced, drug-oriented disintegration. Shooting heroin had become a career necessity, not too different from businessmen playing golf. It was how you met the important people in your business. If you didn't shoot up in the afternoon, you would probably not play on the record date that night.

"The whole set-up in America was very, very, very bad. The police would stop the musicians and search us as we came out of the clubs after work. We had to turn our pockets inside out. After awhile, the musicians thought... well, if you have the name you might as well have the game. Eventually, I overdosed. I couldn't remember my own name. My hands were trembling. I couldn't play the piano. I needed shock treatments and a spinal tap



The chess fan: "I try to keep the computer from laughing at me."

to bring me back. So I just got out of there. I left in 1958."

He finds that he cannot recall the exact year — nineteen-sixty-something, Waldron, who will be 73 this year, would seem to have no reason to worry about the aging of his mind (or, from the looks of it, his body); but, still, at that age the

possibility will at least cross your mind now and then. So he smiles and recites: "Alzheimer schmalzheimer."

Working to ward it off, he calculates numbers without the help of a calculator. And he memorizes telephone numbers: "I don't write any numbers down. None. It's an

exercise to keep the muscle working. It's really just a muscle and it will atrophy if you don't exercise it."

His 7-year-old twins keep him literally on his toes with piggy-back rides and bouncing on his lap. Playing new music with new musicians helps. And he often competes against the computer that runs the portable chessboard he carries with him on the road: "I try to keep the computer from laughing at me."

People who live in the United States are often interested in collecting money and expensive toys rather than investing in risky experiences. Waldron, on the other hand, is the type who emigrated to live and work in Europe for the quality of life without a steady job already lined up.

It is clearly unusual for an American working man without a stock portfolio even to consider, let alone pull off, anything like this particular caper. To celebrate his 70th birthday, Waldron took his entire family — two families actually — with him on a three-week tour of Japan. All told, two wives, seven children and two grandchildren. He has two daughters, now 37 and 39, with his first wife. He borrowed the plane fare from the bank, the Japanese gigs paid it back.

The two wives had never met. He could not, however, afford to be too nervous about everything getting along because he had to be in shape to play the gigs to pay back the bank. He performed "White Road, Black Rain" — his piece for voice, flute and piano, a protest against the atom bomb — in Hiroshima. The 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bomb was 10 days away from his 70th birthday.

Sometimes during all the moving around there would be a taste of panic. Rushing to get to airports on time. Not enough hotel rooms booked. Or somebody might shout: "Where are the twins? Has anyone seen the twins?"

But all and all, he says, the trip was an "affirmation of life."

## The Architectural Fantasies of Achilles Rizzoli

By Tessa DeCarlo

NEW YORK — When the art dealer Bonnie Grossman first discovered the fantastic architectural drawings of Achilles Rizzoli seven years ago, she was struck by their formal beauty and meticulous draftsmanship. Her attention was also riveted by qualities that might make a more conventional connoisseur shudder — the compulsive elaboration, religious mania, creepy sexual overtones and frequently incomprehensible wordplay that indicated that Rizzoli's mental state had veered considerably wide of normal.

But if Rizzoli was not your standard artist, neither is Grossman your standard dealer. Her gallery in Berkeley, California, specializes in "outsider art," the work of the socially marginal and mentally eccentric.

A show of 85 of Rizzoli's hallucinatory drawings opened Saturday at the Museum of American Folk Art. When "A.G. Rizzoli: Architect of Magnificent Visions" ends here March 8, it will move to the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Born in 1896, Rizzoli worked as a draftsman in a series of small architectural offices in San Francisco and lived with his mother in a four-room cottage. He never married and slept on a cot at the foot of his mother's bed, even after her death in 1937. Rizzoli suffered a severe



Detail of Achilles Rizzoli's "Shirley's Temple."

stroke in 1977 and died four years later.

Although Rizzoli lived and died in shabby genteel obscurity, he longed for fame and dreamed of glory. In 1935 he began designing an ideal city that was a combination World's Fair and blueprint for heaven. He called this spiritual monument the YITTE, for "yield to total elation," one of the scores of acronyms and mottoes with which he studied the floridly detailed designs for this "Espean of Magnitude, Magnificence and Manifestation," for which Rizzoli served as no less than God's own "earthly architectural assistant and transcriber."

Some of the most striking pictures on view at the Museum of Folk Art are YITTE "symbolizations," large, elaborate drawings of towers and temples intended to embody people Rizzoli knew and also, perhaps, to house them in the hereafter.

He repeatedly transformed his mother into a neo-Gothic cathedral bristling with statues of spear-toting nymphs and baby-toting mothers. A neighborhood girl, Shirley Jean Bersie, inspired a clutch of gigantic towers in a riotous mix of styles, named "Shirley's Temple." A co-worker was immortalized as a marble palace bedecked with the words "a scholar and a gentleman."

Tessa DeCarlo, who is writing a book on outsider art, wrote this for The New York Times.

## PARIS FASHION

## Saint Laurent Celebrates 40 Years in a Minor Key

By Suzy Menkes  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The kick-off to Yves Saint Laurent's 40-year celebrations — which will climax with a show at the World Cup soccer final to July — was the couture collection that the designer presented Wednesday.

The show ended on a high note with a pert bride, in a shapely white guipure lace gown and a Carmen Miranda headpiece of roses, walking out to the strains of "I Feel Pretty." It started with the impeccable tailoring

for which Saint Laurent is known, but in a subdued mood, so that the usual vibrant and artistic palette was a watercolor wash of pale blue and shell pink, with just an occasional lacquer red to go with the coolie hats.

The Chinese theme was one of several reprises that Saint Laurent moved from major to minor key: chinoiserie reduced to just a wide, side-split tunic lighted with Oriental jewelry, and all the Moroccan references to one sand-brown, draped-chiffon dress.

Flashes of Saint Laurent's spirit came in retreat, as a sequined black dress showed swinging pompons down its spine, or a plain and perfect white crepe dress revealed broad cross-ribs at the back.

But the seductive silhouettes were all softened at the front, offering drapes of liquid satin, wraps of ruffled chiffon and a plain A-line lace dress for women who have lost their waists but not their appetite for couture.

Sure Saint Laurent still shows marginally cut slithers of satin and pure and precise pantsuits. And perhaps the audience, primed for the self-celebratory event that less sensitive designers can burn out, expected too much. But even absinthe-green eye shadow and the dramatic arch of scarlet amaryllis blooms could not hide the fact that it was a low-key collection. Or, as Sir Hardy Amies, the octogenarian designer to Queen Elizabeth, said: "It's for ladies."

Asked about the anniversary, Saint Laurent said shyly:

"I do feel very emotional — I am amazed, even quite astounded, that I could have lasted so long in fashion — and that people still love me."

In a pretty, witty collection — the best he has yet produced for Pierre Balmain — Oscar de la Renta pulled off a neat trick. He dived into 18th-century archives, but instead of drowning in swooshes of floral faille and

embroidered chinoiserie, he surfaced in summer 1998.

The secret was a modern mix of masculine and feminine, that brought those Chinese embroideries on jackets as sparrow-small as Rococo vests, or on frock coats over Regency-striped pants, worn with flat Oriental slippers. The crinoline was reduced to a gentle puff on the skirts of simple cocktail dresses or the occasional panther inspired by Watteau's painting.

The result was garden-fresh in its summery colors like peony pink and a pale spring green against neutral ivory and cream. When night fell, midnight blue became the new black, maybe as niles spangled with myriad embroideries or with real diamonds glinting from corsage to chignon.

The new, if confusing, presentation, with the models walking the rows of upscale clients as if strolling a formal garden, showed off the delicate couture workmanship like open-work embroidery, and the intriguing fabric textures, which included grainy silks and artisanal tweed.

De la Renta's jaunty confidence brought a French baret above a navy-and-white striped suit — the lines picked out with beads.

Why did he look back to the Mozartian era?

"I love those fabrics so much — but I was trying to do 18th century and modern," de la Renta said backstage. He succeeded admirably.

In one of those serendipitous fashion conjunctions, Jean Paul Gaultier was on the same track — but seeing the 18th century his way, through the persona of a French marquise among the Taurags. With a nomad tent as a backdrop, tulle-veiled chandeliers overhead and a bewigged flunky serving mint tea, Gaultier conjured up a surreal scenario for his modern-romantic clothes.

Confirming the current Paris passion for tulle, he opened the show with meringue-light layers of white shirt over Louis XV breeches, and used the fabric for swathed long dresses or the panniers that wrapped around sleek jumpsuits in jersey or leather.



Saint Laurent's wedding gown.

Couture workmanship and Gaultier's imagination chimed in a sheath dress embroidered like toile de Jouy. The show could have used more of the designer's sculpted tailoring, but his subtle blend of Taurag ethnic with French historical confirms his place in high fashion and a rite of passage from enfant terrible to grown-up.



Balmain's Chinese top and pants.

## PEOPLE

THE Italian singer Al Bano has lost a copyright-infringement suit that claimed Michael Jackson's hit "Will You Be There" was stolen. Jackson had told a Rome court that he did not plagiarize the song "I Cigai di Balaka" (The Swans of Balaka) by Bano when he composed "Will You Be There?" which was on his 1991 "Dangerous" album. "There is some similarity, but it's completely coincidental," Jackson testified. Bano was ordered by the court to pay Jackson's legal expenses.

The "Dallas" actress Linda Gray has been named a UN goodwill ambassador to promote women's rights. Gray, who played Sue Ellen on "Dallas," will appear in UN films highlighting problems facing women in developing countries.

Gabriel Garcia Marquez maintains that he is not in Cuba to report on the visit of Pope John Paul II, saying he is there simply out of "curiosity" about the event. El Tiempo in Bogota and the magazine Bogota Cambio 16 had stated that the Colombian Nobel laureate was writing a long report on the visit of the pontiff, but Garcia Marquez, on his arrival in Havana, was quoted by the news agency Prensa Latina as saying, "I am not here as a journalist."

The actor who played Tom Hanks's friend Bubba in "Forrest Gump" has pleaded not guilty to charges that he stabbed his former wife's boyfriend. Mykelti Williamson was charged with one count each of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon and was freed on \$180,000 bail pending a preliminary hearing on Jan. 30.

The Playboy empire founder Hugh Hefner and his wife, Kimberly, a former Playboy playmate, plan to separate. The couple said in a brief statement that they had "differing interests" but expressed hope for "a possible reconciliation." Kimberly, 34, will live on the property the couple bought a year ago adjoining the Playboy mansion in the Beverly Hills area. Hefner, 71, married the former playmate in 1989. They have two children, Marston, 7, and Cooper, 6.

The British filmmaker Nick Broomfield has shown a selected audience his documentary on the life and death of the Seattle grunge rocker Kurt Cobain, despite its withdrawal from the Sundance film festival last week. Organizers of the festival decided to cancel the screening, citing "unresolved legal issues," including music rights. "Kurt and Courtney," which chronicles the life and shooting death in 1994 of the lead singer and songwriter of the rock group Nirvana, had not been entered in competition but was to have been shown in the "world cinema" exhibition category.

Broomfield's screening was attended by a host of film-industry stars and friends.

Billy Joel, who has said he is giving up pop songs for classical music, has agreed to write the musical score for the



ART AND INDEPENDENCE — Sri Lankan artist Jayasiri Semage adds finishing touches to a painting to be used in Colombo's independence celebrations.

film "Outside Providence." Alec Baldwin and George Wendt will star. The director, Michael Corrente, wanted Joel to take a role in the movie, but the singer had other commitments.

Madoona plans to give her first live British television performance in 15 years next month on a show wrapped around a lottery drawing. She is to perform her latest single, "Frozen," at the Feb. 21 drawing, for which she is reported to have waived her appearance fee. The show takes place in conjunction with twice-weekly drawings in Britain, which have an average audience of about 10 million. Singers who have appeared on the show have all had their records rise on the pop charts.

Ivana Trump is to become a major shareholder of the Croatian daily Slobodna Dalmacija and has said she will be writing a weekly column. The ex-wife of the American tycoon Donald Trump signed a precontract agreement in Split. "I have written books and have always been interested in publishing," she said at a news conference. "Now I can fulfill my wishes by having a daily newspaper."

A man accused of stalking Steven Spielberg has been ordered to stand trial in Santa Monica, California, on Feb. 17. A pretrial hearing was set for Feb. 11 for Jonathan Norman, who is charged with a single count of stalking. Spielberg is expected to testify at the trial.

After NASA announced last week that Senator John Glenn would blast off in the space shuttle as a payload specialist in October at the age of 77, Senator Strom Thurmond, 95, sent his colleague a handwritten note: "Congratulations. Can I go too?"

## Rematch for Novel Contenders

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Will Don DeLillo have better luck the second time around? DeLillo, author of the epic-length novel "Underworld," was widely expected to lose to first-time writer Charles Frazier.

Now the two will compete again, this time for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Organizers announced that the finalists for the fiction prize also include Andrei Makine and Penelope Fitzgerald, whose nominations were made possible by the critics circle's decision to make non-U.S. citizens eligible. Frazier is the author of "Cold Mountain," a Civil War novel that first became a surprise best-seller. The award will be announced March 24.